



GIRLFRIENDS

[5]

Story & Art by yuri icon MILK MORINAGA



ONE YEAR AGO, I MET
A GIRL WHO BECAME
MY BEST FRIEND...

AND THEN
WE BECAME SO
MUCH MORE...

[CHAPTER 29]

2-3

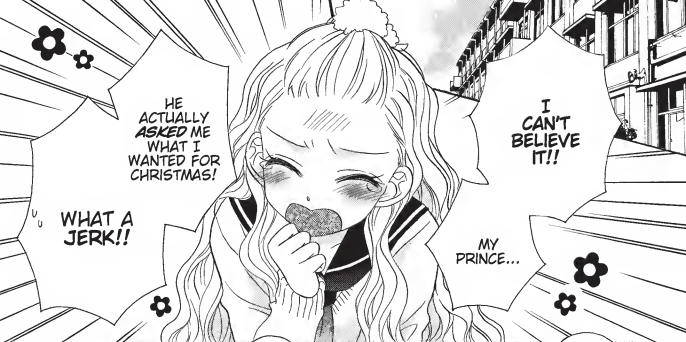
Cosplay Photo Booth

AKKO,
MARI-CHIN!
GET UP
HERE!

THE
CULTURAL
FESTIVAL

MOST OF
THE OUTFITS
BELONG TO
TAMA-MIN...





HE
ACTUALLY
ASKED ME
WHAT I
WANTED FOR
CHRISTMAS!

I
CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT!!

WHAT A
JERK!!

MY
PRINCE...



AND
THAT'S
BAD
BECAUSE
...?

HUH...?



THE FACT
THAT HE
SPENT TIME
THINKING
ABOUT ME
WHILE TRYING
TO PICK THE
PERFECT
PRESENT...

DON'T
BE SILLY,
THAT
DEFEATS
THE
WHOLE
POINT
OF GIFT-
GIVING!

THAT'S
WHAT
REALLY
MATTERS.

IDIOT

OH,
GOD...

...

THAT'S
IT...?

GOD,
KUNO,
JUST PICK
SOMETHING
OUT!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
HOW
INSENSITIVE
HE IS!

HE
SHOULD
KNOW
ME WELL
ENOUGH
TO KNOW
WHAT I
WANT!

WHATEVER!

WHATEVER!

WHATEVER!

**WHAT-
EVER!**

BUT...

YOU DON'T
HAVE MUCH
TIME, KUNO-
CHIN. AND
WE HAVE
EXAMS...

THAT'S
SOOO
SAPPY...

I'M MAKING
HIM A
HAND-MADE
SWEATER!
♡

JEEZ...

I
MEAN, IT
TOOK ME
FOREVER
TO FIGURE
OUT HIS
GIFT!

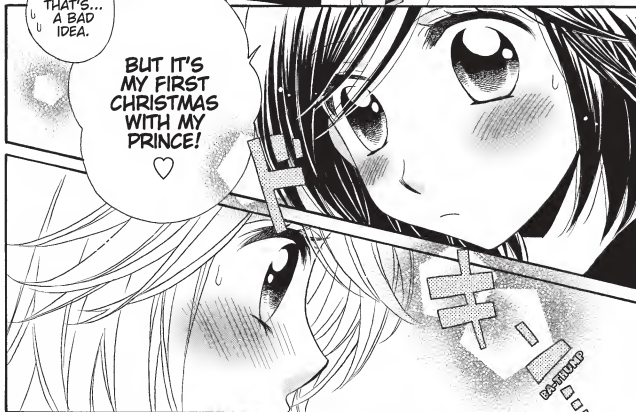
SO
WHAT? I'LL
JUST KNIT
INSTEAD OF
STUDYING!

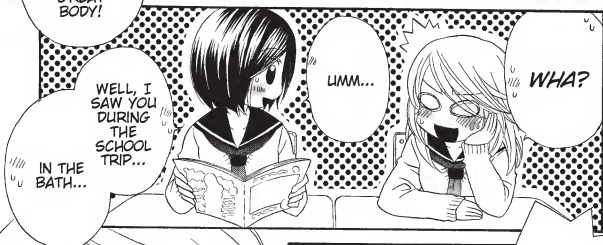
HE
HE
HE HE!
♡ ♡ ♡

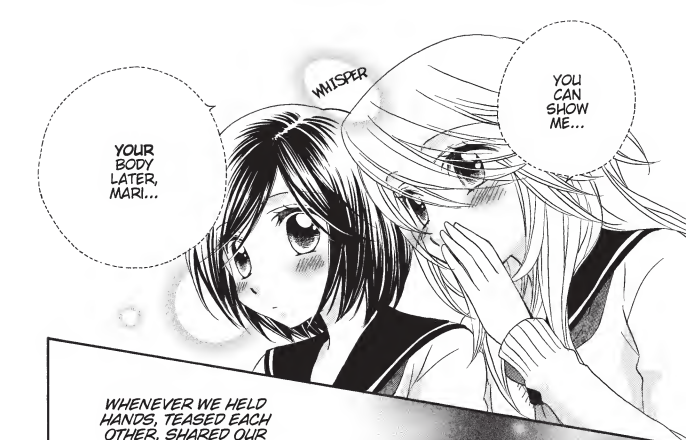
REALLY?
WHAT DID
YOU GET
HIM?

THAT'S...
A BAD
IDEA.

BUT IT'S
MY FIRST
CHRISTMAS
WITH MY
PRINCE!
♡







YOUR
BODY
LATER,
MARI...

WHISPER

YOU
CAN
SHOW
ME...

WHENEVER WE HELD
HANDS, TEASED EACH
OTHER, SHARED OUR
LITTLE SECRETS...

...MY HEART
THROBBED SO
MUCH IT HURT.



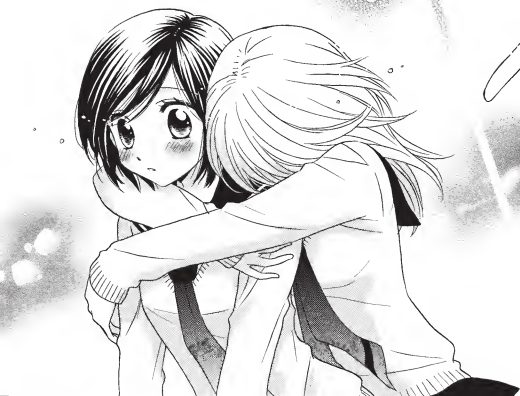
OF COURSE,
IT STILL
THROBS, BUT...



S-
SURE...

...IT
DOESN'T
HURT
ANYMORE.

HUG

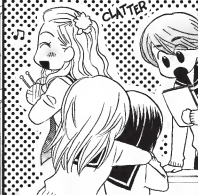


I'M GONNA
SIT IN
THE BACK
ROW AND
KNIT!



STOP
MESSING
AROUND!
WE HAVE
TO GO TO
OUR NEXT
CLASS.

CLATTER
CLATTER



AH...

AKKO!

IT
SEEMED
LIKE...

SO
WHAT
DO YOU
WANT FOR
CHRIST-
MAS?

WELL...



I'M
NOT!

YOU'RE
GOING TO
MAKE HIM
BUY YOU
SOMETHING
EXPENSIVE,
AREN'T
YOU?

WE
WERE THE
ONLY ONES
WHO HAD
NOTICED...

THAT
ANYTHING
HAD
CHANGED.

RIGHT?



IT'S
PROBABLY
A GOOD
THING...

BUT
AT THE
SAME
TIME...

AV. ROOM

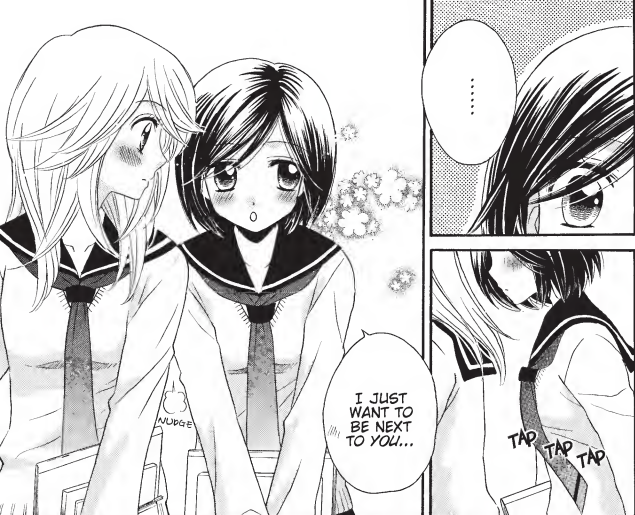


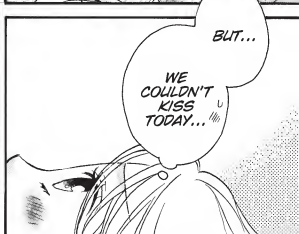
WHERE
SHOULD
WE SIT?

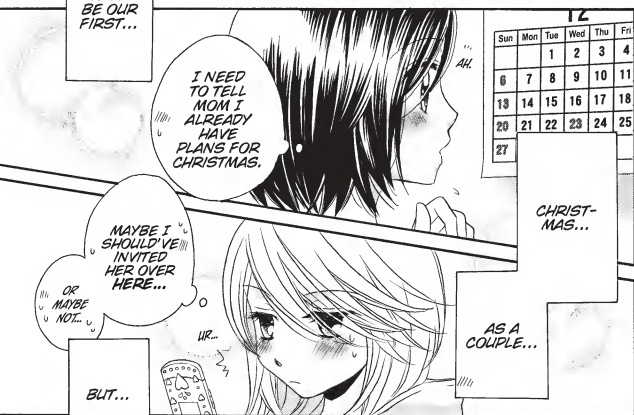
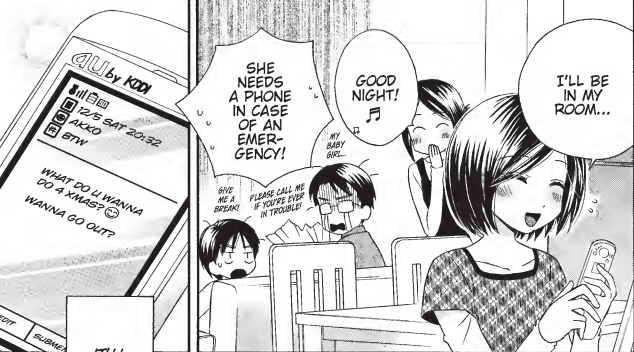
ARE
THERE
ANY
SEATS
IN THE
BACK
ROW?

MARI!

WHERE
DO YOU
WANNA
SIT?







AS EXPECTED

AH YES,
A REBECCA
TAYLOR
HANDBAG...

OR IS
IT A
VEST?

A HAND-
MADE NECK
WARMER!

WOW,
THIS IS
GREAT!

STAB
STAB

LOVES IT

BEFORE
WE KNEW
IT, EXAMS
WERE
OVER...

AND
KLINO-CHIN
FINISHED
THE, UH,
SWEATER,
IN TIME...

CHRISTMAS
EVE.

THIS
WILL
BE...

BUT...

THE AB-
SOLUTELY
BEST...

CHRIST-
MAS
EVER!



WE
WERE
JUST
CHECKING
THE PRICES
BEFORE THE
NEW YEARS'
SALES, AND
THEN...

WHY
ARE WE
SHOP-
PING?

OOPS!

I'M SORRY.
TODAY WAS
SUPPOSED
TO BE
SPECIAL...

THEY
SURPRISED
US WITH A
CHRISTMAS
SALE!

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT,
AKKO?

SHOPPING
WITH YOU ON
CHRISTMAS...

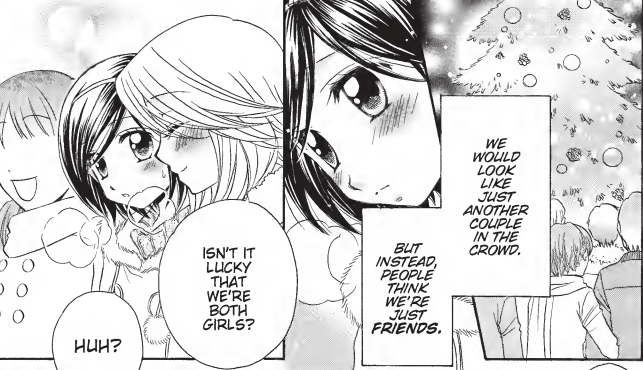
IS
EXACTLY
WHAT I
WANT TO
DO!

WE'VE
BARELY
BEEN
ABLE TO
HANG
OUT LIKE
THIS...

AFTER
THE SCHOOL
TRIP, THERE
WAS THE
CULTURAL
FESTIVAL
AND
EXAMS...

NOW
THAT I
THINK
ABOUT
IT...





HUH?

ISN'T IT
LUCKY
THAT
WE'RE
BOTH
GIRLS?

BUT
INSTEAD,
PEOPLE
THINK
WE'RE
JUST
FRIENDS.

WE
WOULD
LOOK
LIKE
JUST
ANOTHER
COUPLE
IN THE
CROWD.



YEAH!

A
COUPLE
ALL OVER
EACH OTHER,
ESPECIALLY
ON CHRIST-
MAS.

R-
REALLY?

I
MEAN...

PEOPLE
MIGHT GET
JEALOUS
IF THEY
SAW...



THIS
IS...

BUT SINCE
WE'RE BOTH
GIRLS, WE CAN
GET AWAY
WITH IT.



ONCE
AGAIN...

AKKO'S
SIMPLE
WORDS...

SPARKLED
AND
CHANGED
MY
WORLD.

FROM THE
MOMENT
WE MET...

I WAS
IN LOVE
WITH HER.



IT'D BE
WEIRD...

EVEN IF
WE'RE
GIRLS...

IF I
HUGGED
AKKO
HERE...

IF...

SOMETHING
JUST FOR US!



UMM...

AND
YOU'RE A
LOT TALLER
TOO! I DIDN'T
GROW MUCH...

OH
GOSH,
THANKS.



AH!
SORRY,
AKKO!
THIS IS
MY FRIEND
FROM GRADE
SCHOOL...

MAYU-
CHAN.

NICE TO
MEET
YOU!

RIGHT
BACK
AT'CHA!

MY
VERY
CLOSE
FRIEND.

AND
THIS IS
AKKO...

HOLD
ON...

SURE!
AND I'LL
ADD YOURS
TO MY
PHONE...

MARI-
CHAN,
GIVE ME
YOUR
PHONE
NUMBER!

MY,
UH...



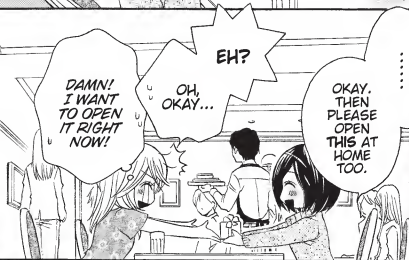


OPEN
IT AT
HOME,
OKAY?

EH?

HERE
YOU GO!
IT TOOK
ME FOR-
EVER TO
PICK IT
OUT!

HOPE
YOU
LIKE
IT!



DAMN!
I WANT
TO OPEN
IT RIGHT
NOW!

OH,
OKAY...

EH?

OKAY.
THEN
PLEASE
OPEN
THIS AT
HOME
TOO.



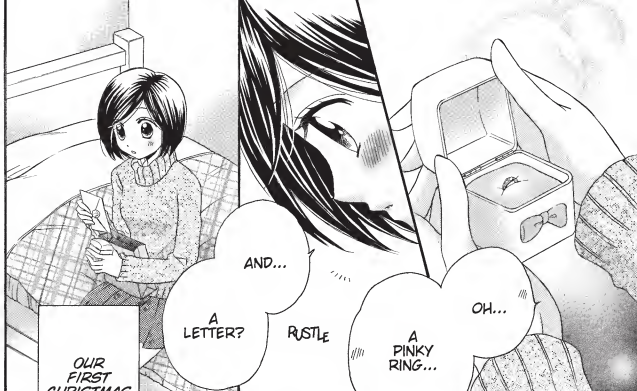
AFTER
THAT,
WE ATE
PASTA...

SHOPPED
SOME
MORE...

AND TOOK
PRINT CLUB
PICTURES.

THANK
YOU...!





OUR
FIRST
CHRISTMAS
TOGETHER...

A
LETTER?

AND...

RUSTLE

A
PINKY
RING...

OH...

WAS
PERFECT.



BUT
LITTLE
DID WE
KNOW...

WHAT
LAY
AHEAD
OF US.

AKKO ✿



NAME: OHASHI AKIKO

BIRTHDATE: AUGUST 22

ZODIAC: LEO

BLOOD TYPE: B

HEIGHT: 158CM

WEIGHT: 45KG

HOBBY: MAKEUP ♡

MOST WANTED ITEM:

MARI'S HEART! ♡

GIRL FRIENDS — ガールフレンズ —

Number 43

Future Blessing

New Year Fortune:

WELL,
WHAT-
EVER!

LET'S
CHECK
OUT THE
SHOPS!

CHATTER
CHATTER

OH,
AVERAGE
LUCK!
WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?

LET'S
SEE...

MURMUR
MURMUR

WHAT
DID
YOU
GET,
MARI?

PUSH

"FUTURE
BLESSING"
IS A GOOD
FORTUNE...

I'LL
TAKE
MINE
HOME.

I
SHOULDN'T
USE UP
ALL MY
LUCK
ON A
FORTUNE
READING!

GOTTA
SAVE SOME
FOR THE
NEW YEAR'S
SALES!

THEY
START
TOMORROW!

A NEW
YEAR.

BUT
WHAT IF
I WANT
MY LUCK
NOW?

I
GUESS
IT'S ALL
HOW YOU
LOOK AT
IT...

Ummm...

WHICH
ONE'S
BETTER,
"FUTURE
BLESSING"
OR "GOOD
LUCK"?

IT'S STILL BETTER
THAN GETTING
A CURSE I GUESS.

[CHAPTER 30]

LAST
YEAR, I
NEVER
IMAGINED...

I'D
RING IN
THE NEW
YEAR LIKE
THIS.

NEITHER
OF US DID.

HUSTLE
BUSTLE

CHATTER
CHATTER

DON'T
WORRY,
AKKO. I
WON'T.

MARI,
DON'T LET
GO OF MY
HAND!

LOOK AT
ALL THE
PEOPLE!





HMM?

FOR
WHAT?

FOR
THE CHRIST-
MAS
DATE...

I WANTED
TO THANK
YOU AGAIN...

HUFF
HUFF

OH!

THE
PINKY RING
LOOKS SO
CUTE ON
YOU! I'M
GLAD YOU
LIKED IT!

♪

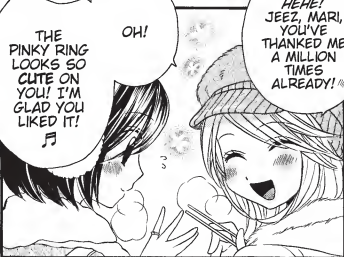
LOOK,
LOOK! I'M
WEARING
MY GIFT
TOO!

♪

THE
BRACELET
YOU GAVE
ME!



HEHE!
JEEZ, MARI,
YOU'VE
THANKED ME
A MILLION
TIMES
ALREADY! ///



I ALSO
LIKED...

THE
LETTER
YOU
WROTE.

AKKO,
I REALLY
LIKED YOUR
PRESENT...

/// AND...

!!

HEY! MY
TAKOYAKI!!

OH GOD!!
STOP IT!!
YOU'RE
EMBAR-
RASSING
ME!!

HAHA!
YOU DON'T
SEEM LIKE
THE LETTER
WRITING
TYPE.

I WAS
KIND OF
SUR-
PRISED...

DEAR MARI,
THANK YOU.

WELL, A
TEXT OR
AN E-MAIL
JUST DOESN'T
HAVE THE
SAME FEEL,
YOU KNOW?

I'M REALLY BAD
AT NOTICING THINGS.
UNTIL YOU TOLD ME,
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT
YOU LOVED ME SO
MUCH. AND ONLY
THEN DID I REALIZE
HOW MUCH I
LOVED YOU.

SO...

THANK YOU FOR
LOVING ME.

I LOVE YOU SO
MUCH, MARI.



ME
TOO!

I LOOK
FORWARD
TO SPENDING
THE REST OF
THE YEAR
WITH YOU!

YEAH?

AKKO...



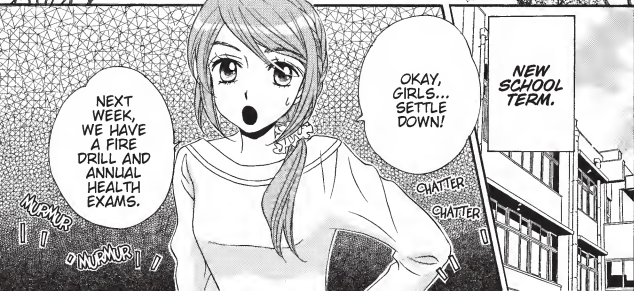
FOR
THE
SAME
THING
THAT
YEAR.

I
THINK
WE
BOTH
WISHED...

HUG
が
ぼ
う
!

LET'S
MAKE THIS
THE BEST
YEAR
EVER!

EEEK!



NEXT
WEEK,
WE HAVE
A FIRE
DRILL AND
ANNUAL
HEALTH
EXAMS.

OKAY,
GIRLS...
SETTLE
DOWN!

NEW
SCHOOL
TERM.

CHATTER
CHATTER



CHATTER
CHATTER

HMPH!

CLAMOR

BUT,
NARU-CHAN...

CLAMOR GULP

IT'S
JUST A
CHECK-UP.
IT'S NOT
WORTH
KILLING
YOURSELF.

AND I DON'T
WANT TO HEAR
ABOUT ANYONE
GOING ON A
CRASH DIET,
OKAY?

JEEZ,
CALM
DOWN!

WHAAAAAT?

NO
WAY!

FRET
FRET

HEALTH
EXAMS?!

FOR
REAL?!

BOOOO!
BOOOO!



AKKO,
DIDN'T YOU
HEAR WHAT
SHE JUST
SAID?



BUT...

IF I
LOSE 5
POUNDS
BY NEXT
WEEK...



WHISPER

SHE'S
WEARING
BAGGY
CLOTHES.

YEAH,
IT'S
TRUE!

WHAT'S HER
PROBLEM?
JUST BECAUSE
SHE'S PUT ON
A FEW POUNDS,
SHE DOESN'T
WANT US TO
BE THIN?

WHISPER

WHISPER

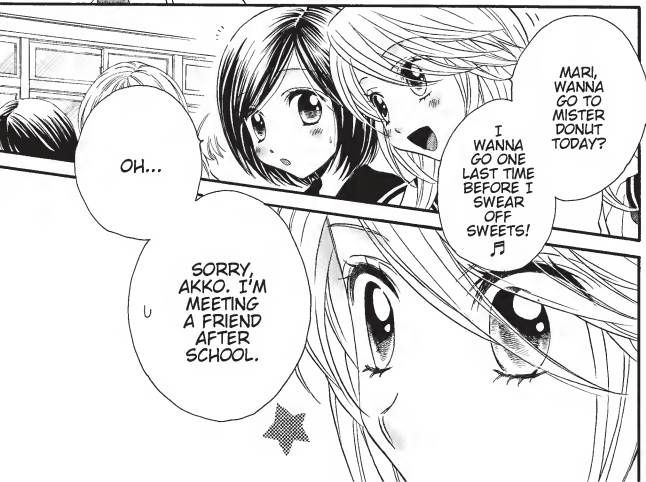
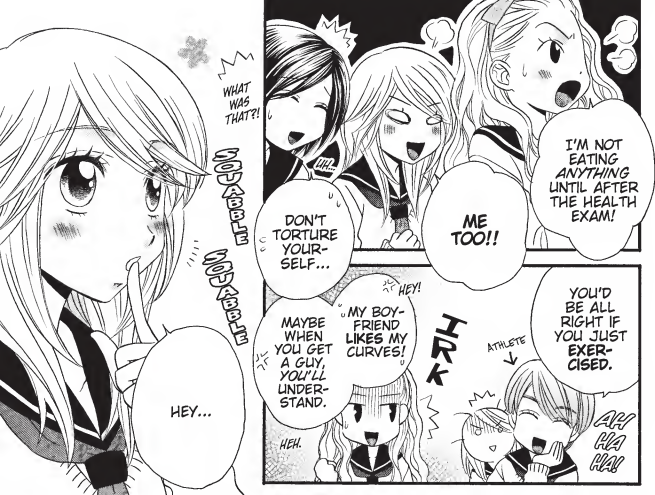
WHAT?!
THAT'S
NOT
RIGHT!

WHISPER



HEY, DON'T
YOU THINK
NARU-CHAN
HAS GOTTEN A
BIT CHUBBY?

LEAH



HMM...

OH
WELL...

OH
YEAH?
IS IT
SOMEONE
I KNOW?

YEP!
IT'S MAYU-
CHAN, THE
GIRL WE
BUMPED
INTO AT CHRIST-
MAS.

HEY,
ARE YOU
LISTEN-
ING?

THE FIRE
DRILL
WILL BE...

AH,
YOUR
ELEMEN-
TARY
SCHOOL
FRIEND,
RIGHT?

YEAH. WE'VE
BEEN TEXTING
EACH OTHER
SINCE THEN.

CHATTER

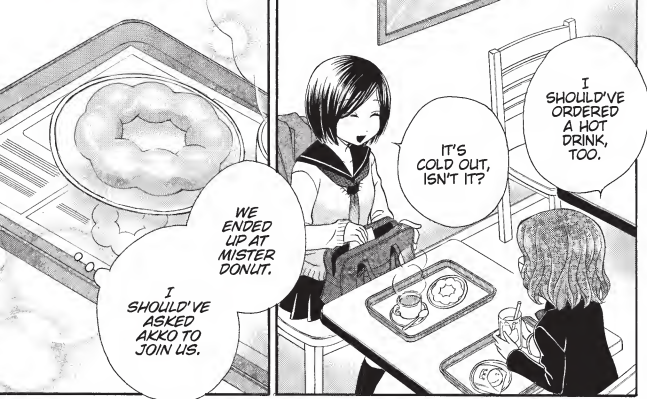
CHATTER

NOPE!

OH,
YOU GOT
CAFE AU
LAIT?

THANKS
FOR
WAITING...

Mister Donut



I
SHOULD'VE
ASKED
AKKO TO
JOIN US.

WE
ENDED
UP AT
MISTER
DONUT.

IT'S
COLD OUT,
ISN'T IT?

I
SHOULD'VE
ORDERED
A HOT
DRINK,
TOO.



HEH...

OH WAIT,
SHE'LL
BE ON
HER DIET
THEN...

UUM?
MARI-
CHAN?

HMM...

BUT
THIS
STOP
IS FAR
FROM
HER
HOME...

I'LL GO
WITH HER
TOMOR-
ROW.



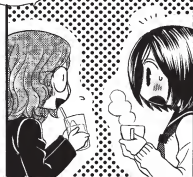
AHH!

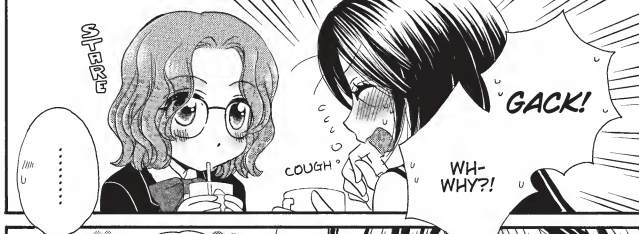
EH?

I WAS
JUST
ASKING...

OH, I'M
SORRY!
WHAT
DID YOU
SAY?

ARE YOU
GOING OUT
WITH ANYONE
RIGHT NOW?



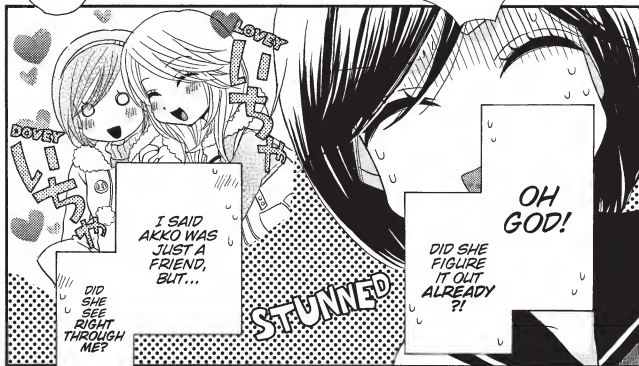


スneeze

GACK!

COUGH

WH-
WHY?!



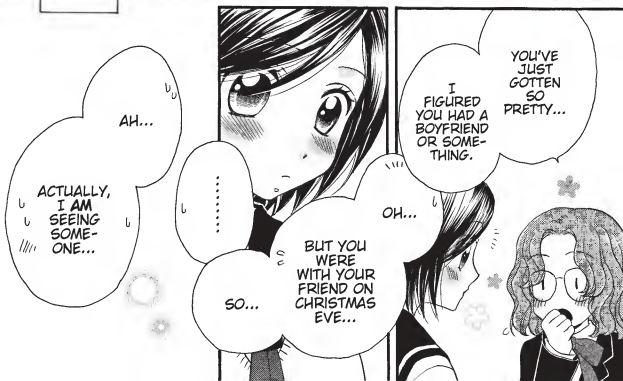
OH
GOD!

DID SHE
FIGURE
IT OUT
ALREADY
?!

STUNNED

I SAID
AKKO WAS
JUST A
FRIEND,
BUT...

DID
SHE
SEE
RIGHT
THROUGH
ME?



AH...

ACTUALLY,
I AM
SEEING
SOME-
ONE...

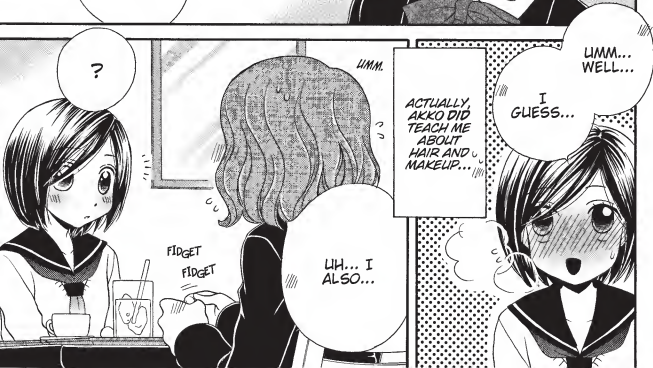
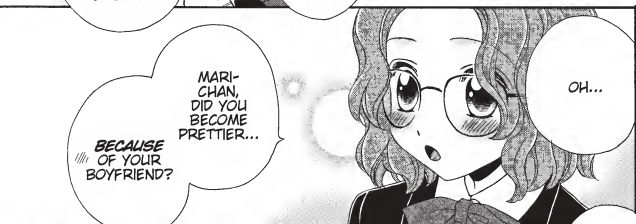
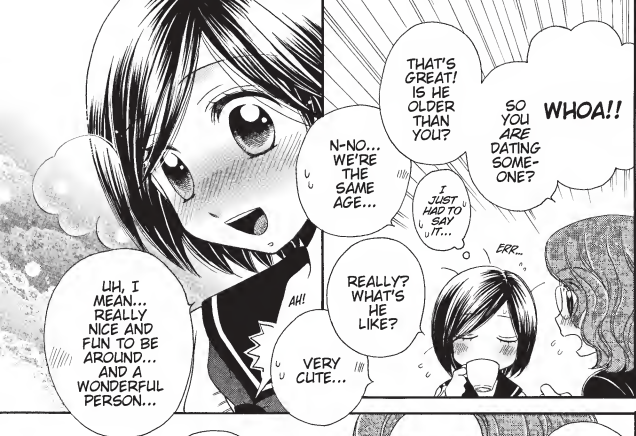
SO...

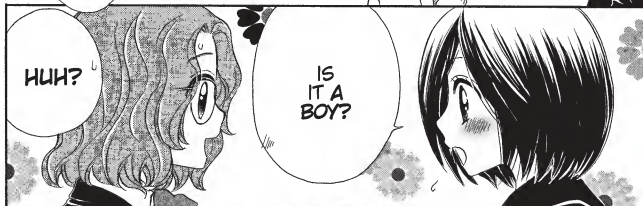
BUT YOU
WERE
WITH YOUR
FRIEND ON
CHRISTMAS
EVE...

OH...

I
FIGURED
YOU HAD A
BOYFRIEND
OR SOME-
THING.

YOU'VE
JUST
GOTTEN
SO
PRETTY...







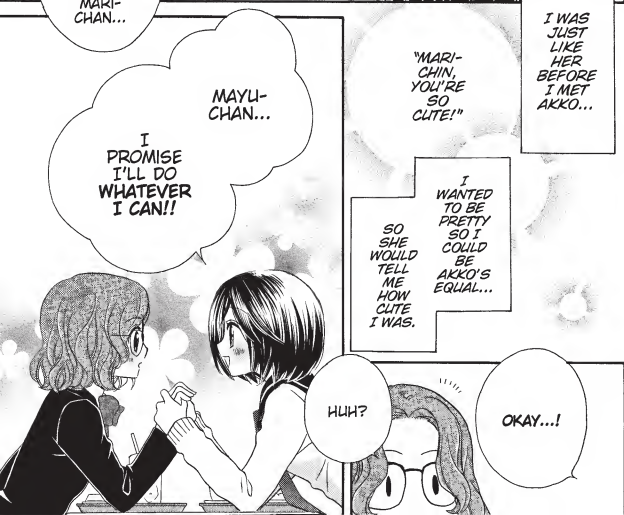
BUT I
DON'T
KNOW
WHERE
TO
START.

I JUST
WANT TO
BE PRETTY
ENOUGH
FOR HIM
TO NOTICE
ME...

.....

THAT'S
WHY I
WANTED
YOUR
ADVICE,
MARI-
CHAN...

I...



MAYLI-
CHAN...

I
PROMISE
I'LL DO
WHATEVER
I CAN!!

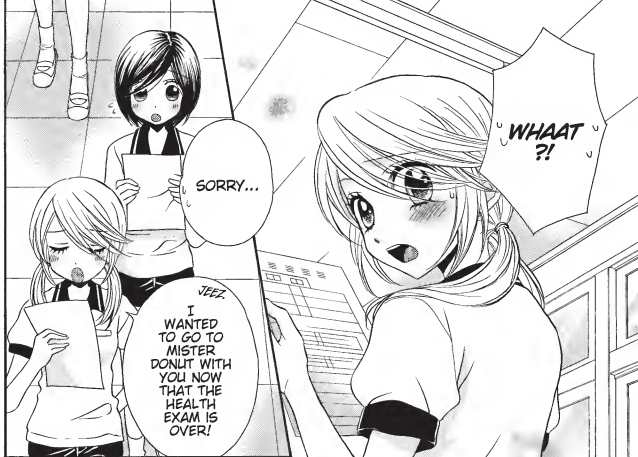
"MARI-
CHIN,
YOU'RE
SO
CUTE!"

I WAS
JUST
LIKE
HER
BEFORE
I MET
AKKO...

I
WANTED
TO BE
PRETTY
SO I
COULD
BE
AKKO'S
EQUAL...
SO
SHE
WOULD
TELL
ME
HOW
CUTE
I WAS.

HUH?

OKAY...!









PLAZA

Bony Plaza

WE'LL
START
WITH SOME
INEXPENSIVE
MAKEUP.
♪

EH?
MAKE-
UP?!

A LITTLE
BIT GOES
A LONG
WAY.

DO YOU
HAVE ANY
LIP GLOSS,
MAYU-
CHAN?

JUST A
LITTLE.
♪

DO
YOU USE
MAKEUP,
MARI-
CHAN?

BUT I'VE
NEVER
USED ANY
BEFORE...

NO...

WHAT
IF I
MESS
IT UP?

YOU
USE
TWEEZERS
LIKE
THESE...

YOU COULD
SHAPE YOUR
EYEBROWS
A LITTLE.

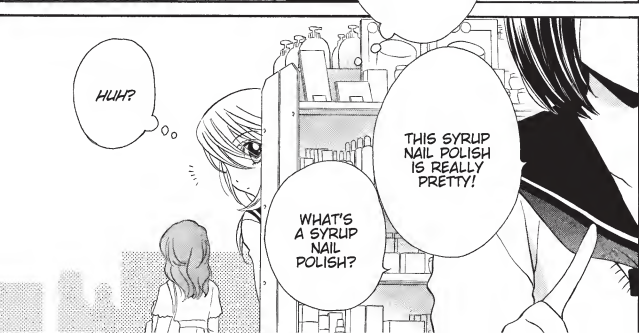
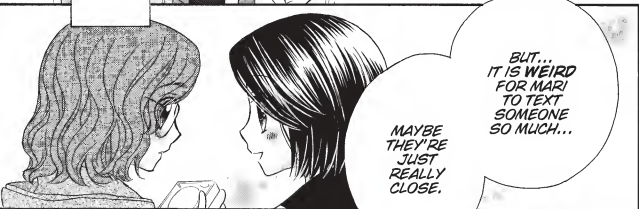
SO...

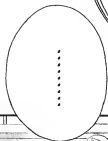
I
FOLLOWED
THEM...

AH!

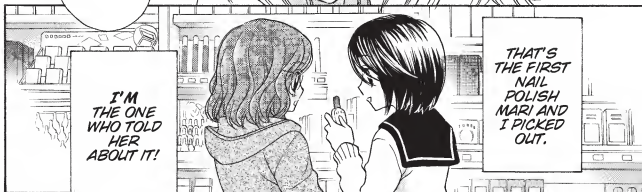
I'M
USING
THIS
ONE.

NO BIG
DEAL,
RIGHT?





FIRST, YOU
PAINT THE
FINGERTIPS
A DARKER
COLOR...



I'M
THE ONE
WHO TOLD
HER
ABOUT IT!

THAT'S
THE FIRST
NAIL
POLISH
MARI AND
I PICKED
OUT.



ARRGH,
I'M
BEING
STUPID!

STOP
IT,
AKKO!

MAYU-
CHAN, CAN
YOU TAKE
OFF YOUR
GLASSES?

EH?

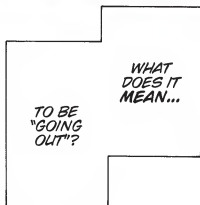
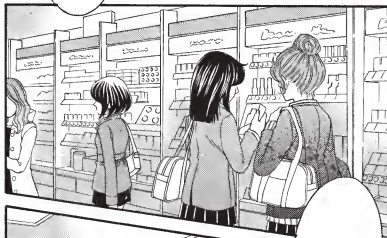
BUT...



I
GUESS...

IT'S
NO
BIG
DEAL.







AND
SOME-
TIMES
WE
KISS...

WE
SHOP
TOGETHER
AND
TEXT...



BUT
WHAT'S
THE
DIFFER-
ENCE...

BETWEEN
MARI'S
FRIEND...



BA-THUMP



AND
ME? u



A
KISS,
THAT'S
ALL.



WHAT
MORE
DO WE
NEED
TO DO?

OH...
BUT...

I'VE
KISSED
MY OTHER
FRIENDS
TOO.

BUT IT
WASN'T
THAT
KIND OF
KISS...

RIGHT?

THEN
WHAT...?

BA-THUMP

ドンキ

MARI-
CHIN



NAME: KUMAKURA MARIKO

BIRTHDATE: FEBRUARY 20

ZODIAC: PISCES

BLOOD TYPE: O

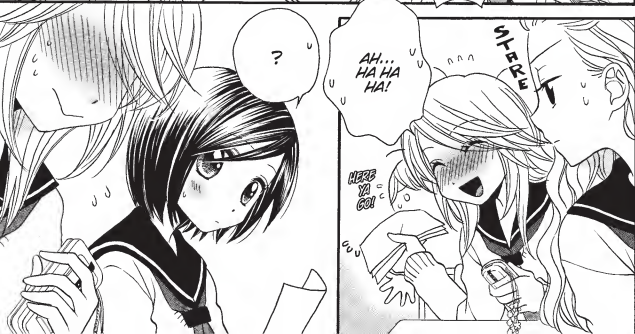
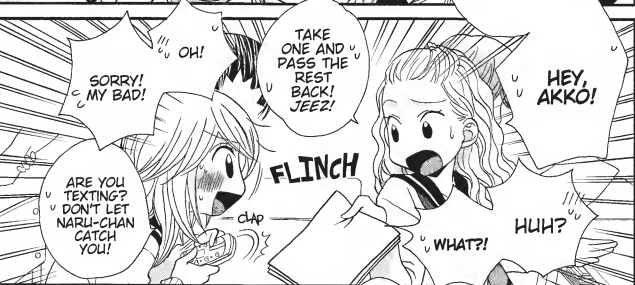
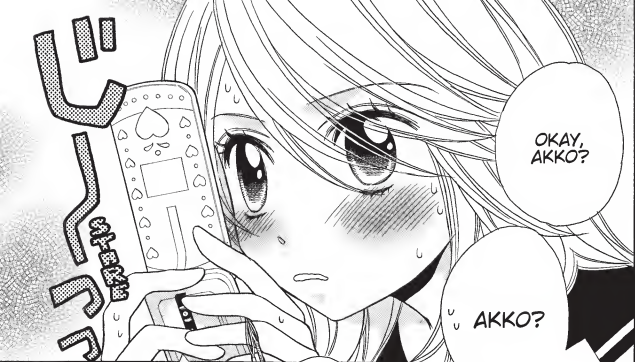
HEIGHT: 155CM

WEIGHT: 48KG

HOBBY: READING

MOST WANTED ITEM:
HER OWN COMPUTER.

GIRL FRIENDS — ガールフレンズ —



MOST OF
YOU WILL GO
ON TO OUR
AFFILIATED
2-YEAR
COLLEGE,
BUT...

THERE
MAY BE
SOME
STUDENTS
WHO ARE
THINKING
OF GOING
SOMEWHERE
ELSE.

IF SO,
MAKE
SURE YOU
DISCUSS IT
WITH YOUR
PARENTS
FIRST...

1. Circle desired higher learning option (choose all that apply):
A. 2-year college, B. External College/Technical School, C. Other.
2. For 2-year colleges, write down your desired course of study
(Japanese Literature, Home Economics, English).

HMM,
COLLEGE...
MAYBE I
SHOULD
MAJOR IN
JAPANESE
LITER-
ATURE...

CHATTER
CHATTER

SHE
DOESN'T
SEEM TO
CARE...

HOME
ECO-
NOMICS?
I KNOW
IT'S NOT
ENGLISH...

I
WONDER
WHICH
COURSE
AKKO IS
CONSIDER-
ING...

GLANCE

TURN
IN THESE
FORMS
BY NEXT
MONDAY. IF
YOU HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS,
JUST COME
TO ME.

[CHAPTER 31]

EVEN IF
WE HAVE
DIFFERENT
MAJORS,
WE'LL STILL
BE IN THE
SAME SCHOOL
WE'LL SEE
EACH OTHER
EVERY DAY.

I WONDER
HOW AKKO
WILL LOOK AS
A COLLEGE
STUDENT...

HEY,
MARI-
CHIN!

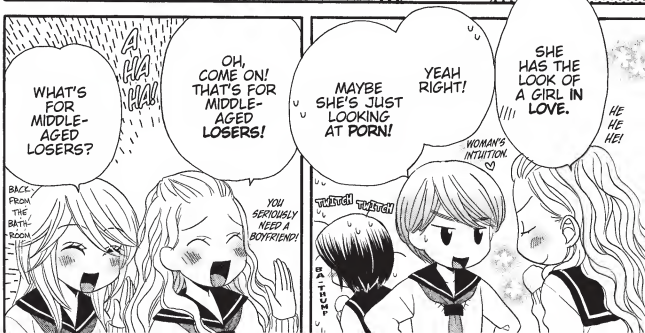
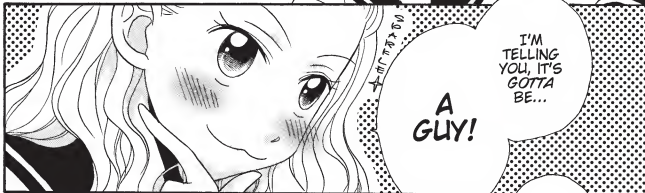
WHAT
IS IT,
TAGU-
CHAN?

WE JUST
THOUGHT...

YOU
MIGHT
KNOW...

?







TAGUCHI
WAS RIGHT.
AKKO WAS
LOOKING
AT PORN.

WHOA!
THAT'S...

OH MY
GOD...

CLICK

xxx Workplace

"DID...
DID YOU
TWO GO
ALL THE
WAY?"

WELL...

I DON'T
WANT TO
THINK
ABOUT
IT, BUT...

GAH~!!

"IT'S NO
BIG DEAL.
I MEAN...
YOU'VE
DONE IT.
RIGHT,
AKKO?"

"NOW...
NOW I'M
JUST LIKE
YOU."

MARI...
AND
HER
BOY-
FRIEND...



HOW...

DID THEY ...?



TAP
TAP

IF I DID
THIS WITH
MARI,
WOULD SHE
LIKE IT?

HOW
WOULD
SHE
REACT?

AHH!

OH!

MARI?!

COMING CALL
MARI

VRRRM



HEY,
DON'T
WORRY!

I
DIDN'T
HAVE
ANY
PLANS
ANYWAY.

SHE COULDN'T
SAY NO BECAUSE
SHE FELT GUILTY
FOR HAVING DIRTY
THOUGHTS...

YEAH,
SORRY
FOR THE
SHORT
NOTICE.

THANKS
SO MUCH,
AKKO!

I'M
SORRY
TO BOTHER
YOU LIKE
THIS, AKKO-
SAN...

MAYU-
CHAN IS
GOING TO
A CLUB
MEETING
AFTER
THIS...

I
TRIED
TO HELP
HER WITH
HER MAKE-
UP, BUT,
WELL...

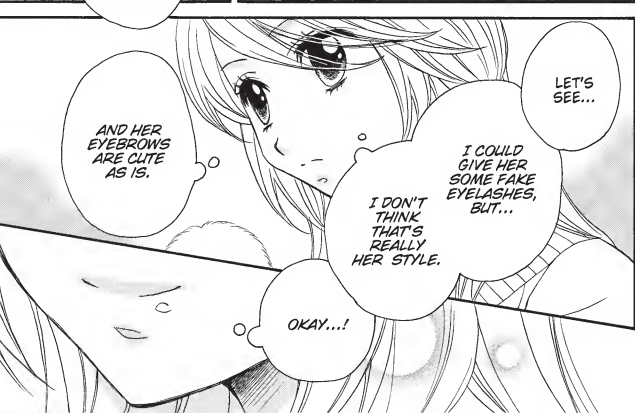
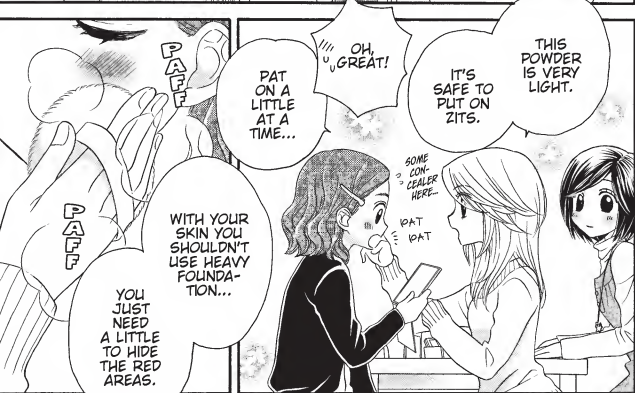
I'M
JUST
NOT AS
GOOD
AS YOU,
AKKO.

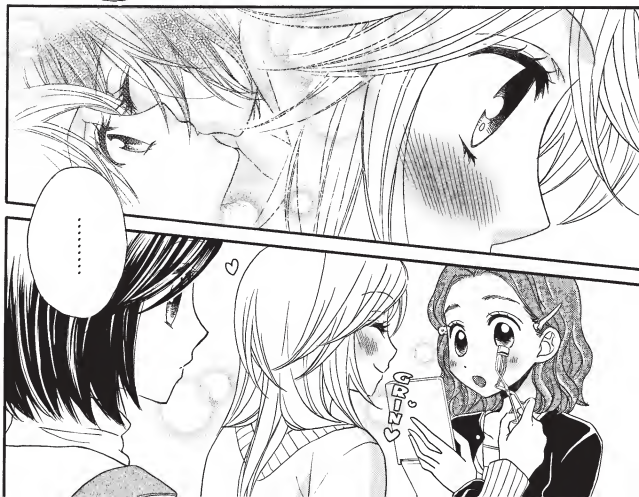
I HAVE
A LOT OF
ACNE
SCARS...

AND MY
HAIR IS
NATURALLY
WAVY.

DON'T
WORRY,
MARI-CHAN!
YOU STILL
HELPED
ME PICK
OUT SOME
CLOTHES!

.....





NOW,
LET'S
TAKE
THE LIP
GLOSS...

MAYU-CHAN,
YOU REALLY
HAVE NICE,
FAIR SKIN...

YOU'LL
LOOK
GOOD
WITH A
PINKISH
BLUSH.

ON THE
CENTER
OF YOUR
LIPS.

AND
DAB A
LITTLE
BIT...

.....

"HIM"?

Y-Y-
YES!!

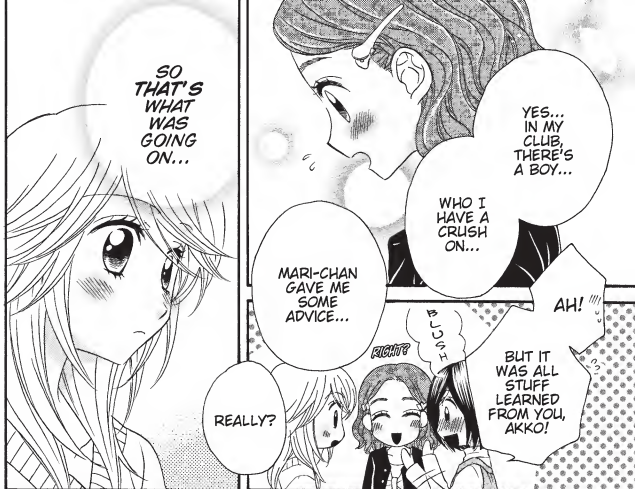
OH!

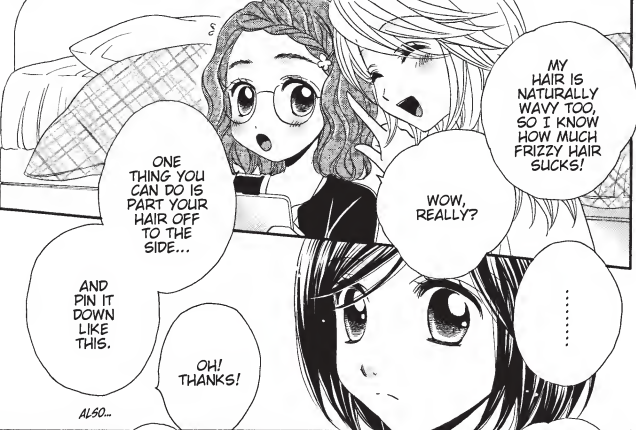
AH!

I BET
YOU CAN'T
WAIT TO
SHOW
HIM!

WOW!

YOU
LOOK
GREAT,
MAYU-
CHAN!!





ONE
THING YOU
CAN DO IS
PART YOUR
HAIR OFF
TO THE
SIDE...

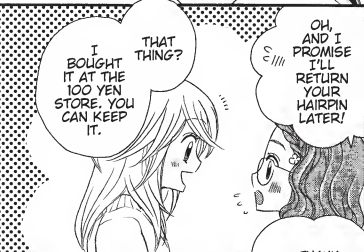
AND
PIN IT
DOWN
LIKE
THIS.

OH!
THANKS!

ALSO...

WOW,
REALLY?

MY
HAIR IS
NATURALLY
WAVY TOO,
SO I KNOW
HOW MUCH
FRIZZY HAIR
SUCKS!



I
BOUGHT
IT AT THE
100 YEN
STORE. YOU
CAN KEEP
IT.

THAT
THING?

OH,
AND I
PROMISE
I'LL
RETURN
YOUR
HAIRPIN
LATER!



I'M
GOING
TO TALK
TO MY
CRUSH AND
GIVE HIM
VALENTINE'S
CHOCOLATE!

THANK
YOU! I
PROMISE,
I WON'T
LET YOUR
HARD WORK
GO TO
WASTE!

GREAT!
GO FOR IT,
MAYU-CHAN!



AKKO-
SAN,
THANK
YOU
VERY
MUCH!!

AND,
MARI-
CHAN,
THANK
YOU!!

NO
PROB-
LEM!

IT WAS
NOTHING!

EH-
HEH!

AKKO-SAN,
I'VE BECOME
A BIG FAN
OF YOURS.



EE
HEE!
♡

EH?

A
FAN?

WHAT?

BY THE
WAY...

DO YOU
KNOW THE
WAY TO THE
STATION?

GOOD
LUCK!

YEP!
I'LL BE
FINE!

OKAY!
WISH ME
LUCK!

HEE
HEE!

YEAH...

WHAT
WERE
YOU
LIKE IN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL--

MARI?

MAYU-
CHAN
IS A
SWEET
KID.

I'M
SURE
SHE'LL
DO
FINE!

HEE HEE!



BUT...

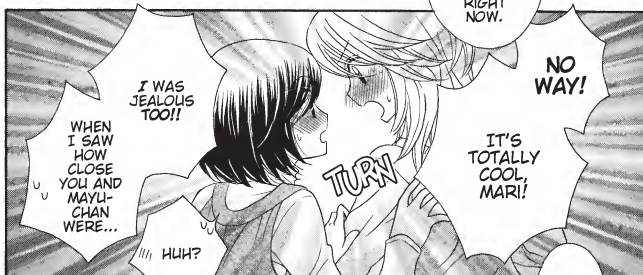
I DIDN'T
THINK I'D
GET SO
JEALOUS.

I'M
SORRY...

I MEAN,
I'M THE
ONE WHO
ASKED
YOU TO
HELP
MAYU-
CHAN...

JEEZ...

I
MUST
SEEM SO
IMMATURE
RIGHT
NOW.



I WAS
JEALOUS
TOO!!

WHEN
I SAW
HOW
CLOSE
YOU AND
MAYU-
CHAN
WERE...

HUH?

NO
WAY!

IT'S
TOTALLY
COOL,
MARI!

TURN



MARI,
CAN I...
KISS
YOU?

YOU...

YOU
DON'T
NEED TO...

ASK...



IT
REMINDED
ME OF WHEN
YOU TAUGHT
ME THOSE
THINGS.

WHEN
YOU PUT
MAKEUP
ON MAYU-
CHAN...

AND
TOLD
HER
WHERE
TO BUY
STUFF...

I HAD SO
MUCH FUN...
AND I WAS
SO HAPPY
TO LEARN
FROM YOU,
AKKO...

HEHE!

BUT...

SQUEEZE
!!
SH-C-C...

/// MARI...

I'M EVEN
HAPPIER...

LIFT

HUH?

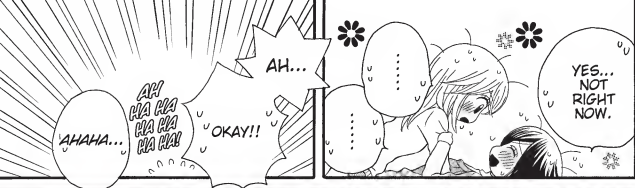
NOW
THAT I
CAN HOLD
YOU LIKE
THIS.

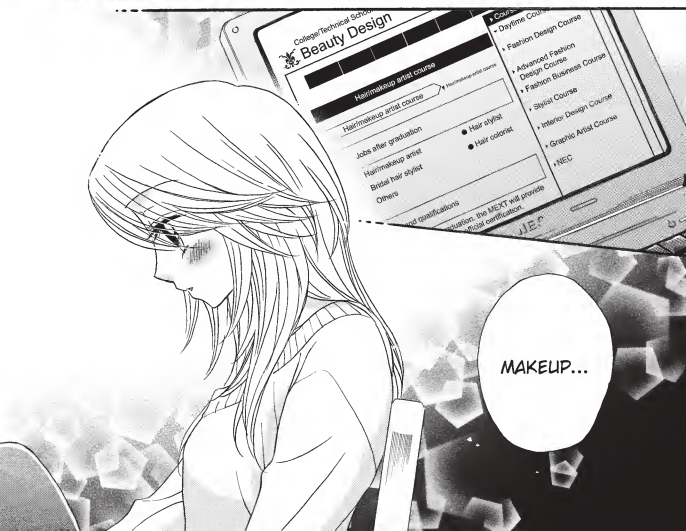
FLOP
!!
J-X-X-X-X

BATCHE
!!
-1-1-1

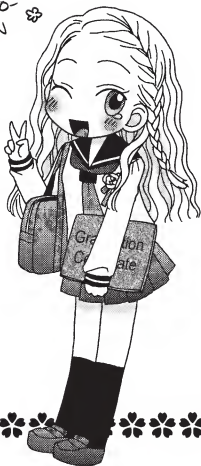








KUNO-
CHIN



NAME: KUNO CHIHARU

BIRTHDATE: SEPTEMBER 16

ZODIAC: VIRGO

BLOOD TYPE: A

HEIGHT: 162CM

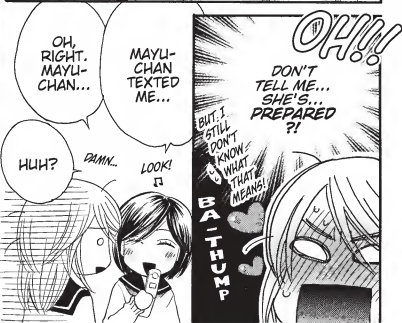
WEIGHT: 54KG

HOBBY: TEXTING

MOST WANTED ITEM:

CLOTHES, BAGS, AND A NEW
HOUSE WITH MY PRINCE! ♥

GIRL FRIENDS — ガールフレンズ —



[CHAPTER 32]

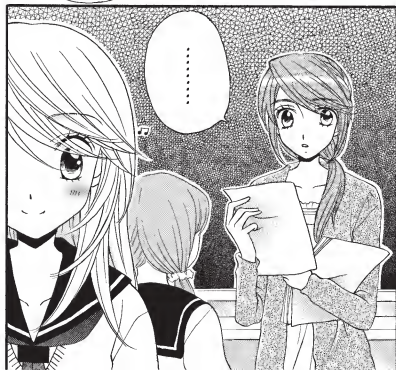
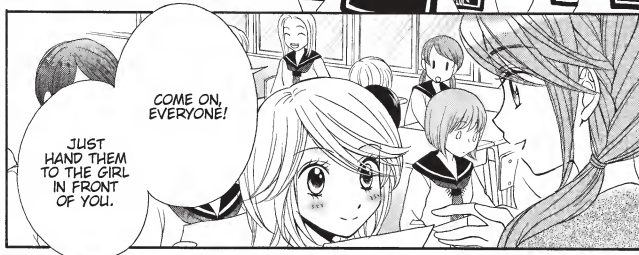


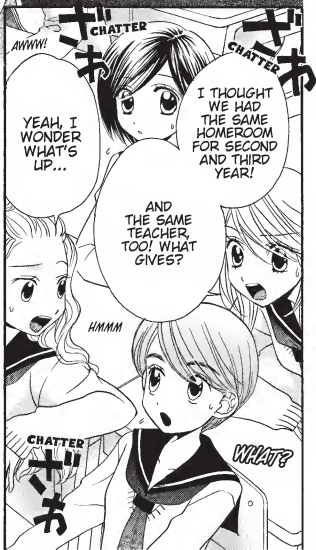
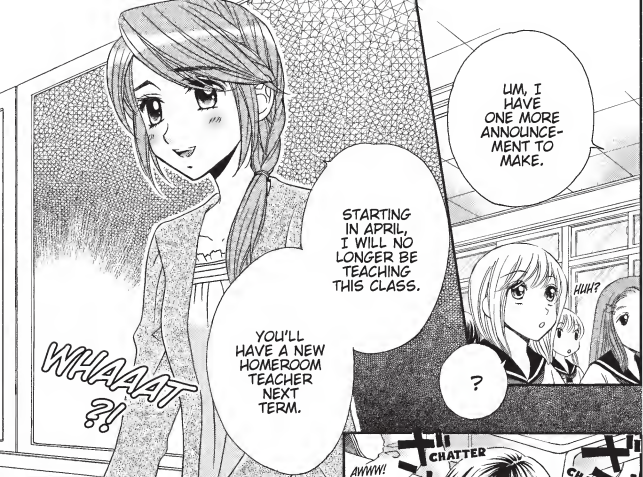


OKAY,
I HOPE
YOU ALL
HAVE YOUR
COURSE
FORMS!

PASS
THEM UP
TO THE
FRONT,
PLEASE.

YES, SENSEI.







I...
I'LL BE
TAKING TIME
OFF FOR
MATERNITY
LEAVE.

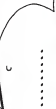


AH!

SURE,
NARU-
CHAN!

SQUEE

CONGRATS!



SHOCK

SQUEE

SQUEE

OH,
HAKAMADA-
SAN AND
OHASHI-SAN,
PLEASE COME
TO THE
FACULTY
OFFICE AT LUNCH
BREAK.

RIGHT,
WELL,
UH...

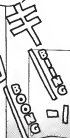
I'LL
PROVIDE
MORE
DETAILS
AFTER LUNCH!

WE NEED
TO TALK
ABOUT
YOUR
COLLEGE
APPLI-
CATIONS.

CONGRAT-
ULATIONS!

SQUEE

SQUEE



I THOUGHT
SHE GAINED
SOME WEIGHT.

BUT WHAT A
SURPRISE!

I
WONDER
HOW
LONG
SHE'S
KNOWN?

WHICH
MEANS
SHE WAS
PREGGERS
DURING OUR
SCHOOL
TRIP.

SO
NARU-
CHAN IS
THREE
MONTHS
PREG-
NANT...

LUNCH
TIME.

YAP
YAP

CHATTER

お
い

CHATTER
お
い

CHATTER

CHATTER

YOU
THINK?

SHE
NEEDS
AN
OLDER
MAN TO
LOOK
OUT FOR
HER.

I DON'T
KNOW,
NARU-
CHAN IS
PRETTY
NAIVE...

THE WHOLE CLASS IS
TALKING ABOUT IT.

YAP

I BET
YOU HE'S
YOUNGER.

I
WONDER
WHO THE
FATHER
IS?

YAP

OH,
SORRY.
WHAT
WERE
YOU
SAYING?

WORRIED
ABOUT
AKKO?

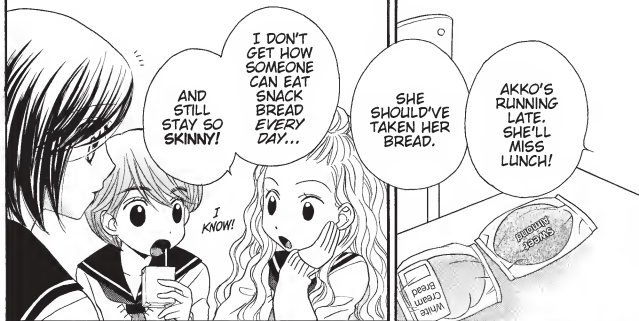
HEY,
WHAT'S
WRONG?

OH
YEAH...

HEY...

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK,
MARI-
CHIN?

MARI-
CHIN...?



AND STILL
STAY SO
SKINNY!

I DON'T
GET HOW
SOMEONE
CAN EAT
SNACK
BREAD
EVERY
DAY...

I
KNOW!

SHE
SHOULD'VE
TAKEN HER
BREAD.

AKKO'S
RUNNING
LATE.
SHE'LL
MISS
LUNCH!



SLIDE
ガラ

I'M SO
HUNGRY!

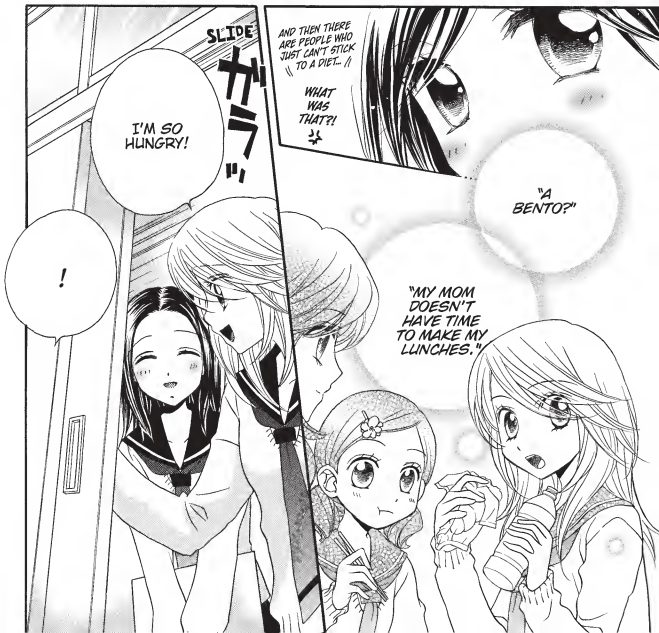
AND THEN THERE
ARE PEOPLE WHO
JUST CAN'T STICK
TO A DIET.. //

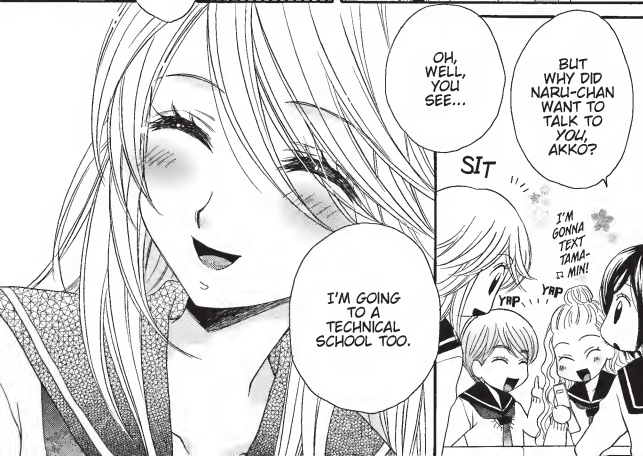
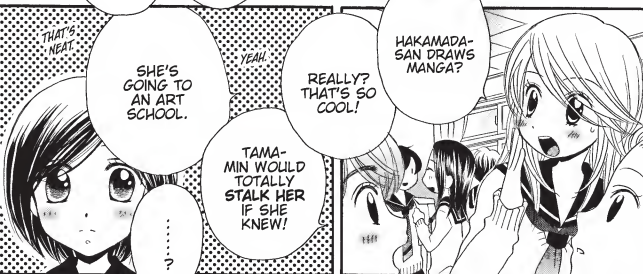
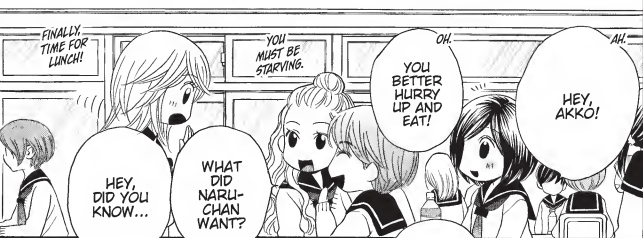
WHAT
WAS
THAT?!

♪

'A
BENTO?'

"MY MOM
DOESN'T
HAVE TIME
TO MAKE MY
LUNCHES."







YEP. NARU-CHAN JUST WANTED TO KNOW...

WHOA, REALLY?

WHO I'D LIKE TO HAVE AS MY ADVISOR SINCE SHE'S LEAVING SOON.

OH, I SEE.

NEWS TO ME!

RIIP

I DIDN'T KNOW...

AKKO WANTED TO GO TO A TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

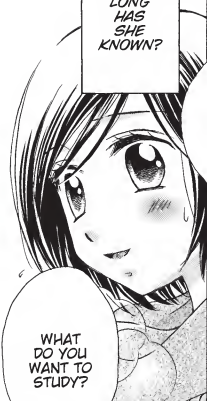
POOR NARU-CHAN! THE SCHOOL BOARD GAVE HER A REALLY HARD TIME ABOUT LEAVING...

SINCE SO MANY STUDENTS NEED HELP FIGURING OUT WHAT TO DO AFTER GRADUATION.

BUT REALLY, WHO CARES?

THEY WON'T EVEN NEED TO TAKE AN ENTRANCE EXAM!

MOST OF THE GIRLS IN OUR CLASS WILL GO TO THE COLLEGE AFFILIATED WITH THE SCHOOL ANYWAY.



HOW
LONG
HAS
SHE
KNOWN?



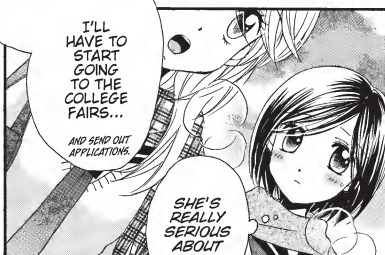
BUT, AKKO,
YOU'RE
GOING TO
AN OUTSIDE
SCHOOL,
AREN'T YOU?

HUH?
WELL,
YEAH.

I'LL
HAVE TO
START
GOING
TO THE
COLLEGE
FAIRS...

AND SEND OUT
APPLICATIONS.

WHAT
DO YOU
WANT TO
STUDY?



SHE'S
REALLY
SERIOUS
ABOUT
THIS...



BUT I'M
THINKING A
HAIR
STYLIST
OR
MAKEUP
ARTIST
COURSE.

I'M
STILL
GOING
OVER MY
OPTIONS
...

WHY
DIDN'T
SHE
EVER
TELL
ME?

IT MADE
ME THINK,
"YOU KNOW
WHAT? I
COULD DO
THIS!"

REMEMBER
WHEN I
GAVE
MAYU-
CHAN A
MAKE-
OVER?



IT'S
GREAT!
♪

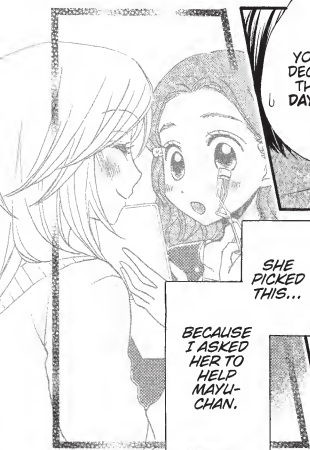
HELPING
PEOPLE LOOK
BETTER AND
FEEL BETTER
ABOUT THEM-
SELVES...

UM,
WAIT...

IT'S FUN
DOING
MAKE-
OVERS!

I ALSO
REALLY LIKED
DOING YOUR
MAKEUP,
MARI.

EH?



YOU JUST
DECIDED ON
THIS TWO
DAYS AGO?

SHE
PICKED
THIS...

BECAUSE
I ASKED
HER TO
HELP
MAYU-
CHAN.

YEP!



WE
SHOULD
CROSS
THE
STREET...



A
WASTE
OF
TIME...

CAN'T YOU
ATTEND THE
SCHOOL
COLLEGE
THEN GO TO
TECHNICAL
SCHOOL?

HAVE
YOU
TALKED
ABOUT
THIS WITH
YOUR
MOM?

WELL,
I *COULD*,
BUT IT'D
BE A WASTE
OF TIME AND
MONEY.

BESIDES,
THERE ARE
PLENTY OF
PEOPLE WHO
GO INTO HAIR
STYLING
RIGHT OUT
OF HIGH
SCHOOL.

YEAH.
SHE SAID
I COULD
DO WHAT-
EVER I
WANT.

ヶ谷駅
KEICHIGAYA STATION

BE-
SIDES...

.....

MARI,
YOU'RE
ACTING
LIKE...

YOU
DON'T
THINK I
SHOULD
DO THIS.



IT'S
JUST...

UHM...

OH
MY
GOD!

YOU
DON'T!

BE-
CAUSE
...

I
THOUGHT
WE'D BE
TOGETHER
IN
COLLEGE,
TOO.

AND...



YOU
THINK
I'LL
FALL
FOR A
GUY?!

IS
THAT
IT?
U

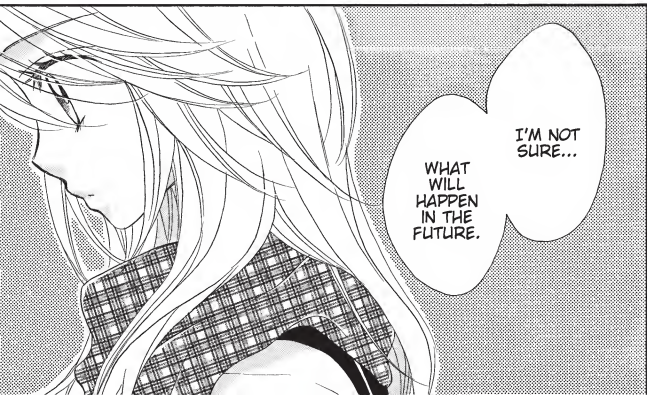
OH!

HUH? I
GUESS...



ARE...

ARE
TECHNICAL
SCHOOLS
CO-ED?



総武線
水・東京・両国・千代田方面

FOR YOUR SAFETY, PLEASE STAND BEHIND THE WHITE LINE.

EH?

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF WE'RE AT THE SAME SCHOOL.

IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL...

THE TRAIN IS ARRIVING AT PLATFORM 2.

WE'LL PROBABLY HAVE MALE CO-WORKERS.

AND GUYS WILL HIT ON YOU TOO, MARI.

EVEN IF WE GO TO THE SAME COLLEGE...

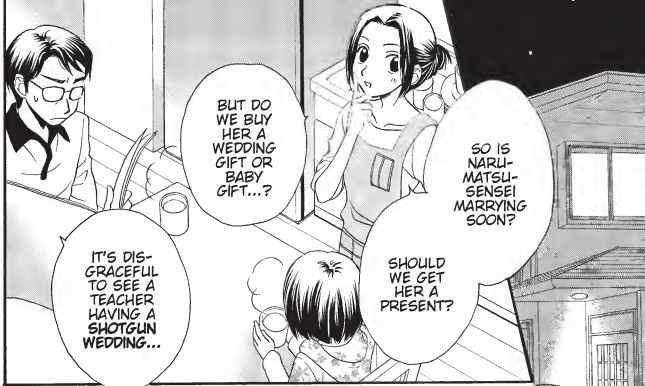
EVEN-
TUAL-
LY WE'LL GET JOBS AT DIFFERENT PLACES.

I'M GOING TO GET A JOB AT AN ALL-WOMAN WORK-PLACE.

I KNOW IT'S NOT, BUT...

THAT'S NOT THE POINT!

WHAT?!



BUT DO
WE BUY
HER A
WEDDING
GIFT OR
BABY
GIFT...?

SO IS
NARU-
MATSU-
SENSEI
MARRYING
SOON?

SHOULD
WE GET
HER A
PRESENT?

IT'S DIS-
GRACEFUL
TO SEE A
TEACHER
HAVING A
SHOTGUN
WEDDING...



BUT...
BUT...

WHO
CARES?
ALL'S WELL
THAT ENDS
WELL!

WED-
DINGS...
BABIES...

IT'S SO
HARD TO
EVEN
IMAGINE.

IT
WOULD
BREAK
YOUR
FATHER'S
HEART
IF YOU
BECAME A
TEENAGE
MOTHER.

MARIKO,
PLEASE BE
CAREFUL...

WHISPER

EH HEH
HEH...

PHEN...

DON'T
WORRY,
DAD...

WHISPER

"CAN'T
YOU
TRUST
ME?"

ANY-
WAY...



THAT'S
NOT THE
PROBLEM.

IT'S JUST
HARD TO
EXPLAIN.

I HURT
AKKO'S
FEEL-
INGS...

AND
MADE
HER
MAD...

BUT...

I
NEVER...

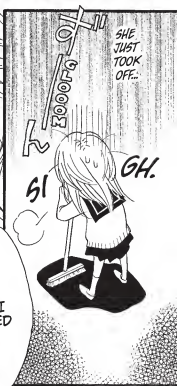
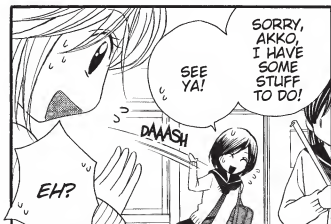
SENT
THAT
TEXT.

I JUST WANTED TO...

BE WITH HER AS
LONG AS POSSIBLE.

THAT'S ALL.

....





**THAT'S
NOT
GONNA
HAPPEN!!**

OKAY...

UH, I
DON'T
THINK
THAT
WOULD
WORK...

I THINK
SHE SHOULD
TRY TO GO
TO THE SAME
COLLEGE
AS HIM.

WHY
NOT? I
DON'T
GET IT.

MAYBE THE
BOYFRIEND
WANTS TO GO
TO A DIFFERENT
SCHOOL SO HE
CAN CHEAT
ON HER.

HMM...

WELL,
THEY WANT
TO STUDY
DIFFERENT
THINGS...

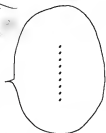
BUT
SHE
CAN'T...

WAH!
WAH!

SHE
SHOULD
JUST GO TO
THE SAME
COLLEGE!!

I'D BE
SO HAPPY
THAT WE GOT
TO SPEND
THESE YEARS
TOGETHER.

IF I WERE
THE SAME AGE
AS MY PRINCE,
AND COULD GO
TO COLLEGE
WITH HIM...



I JUST
WANT TO
BE CLOSE
TO HIM,
ALL THE
TIME.



IT'S
NOT ABOUT
WHETHER
THE GUY WILL
CHEAT OR NOT.
IT'S MORE
COMPLICATED
THAN THAT.

YEAH, BUT
IT'S TOUGH
BEING APART,
EVEN FOR
A LITTLE
WHILE...

IRK



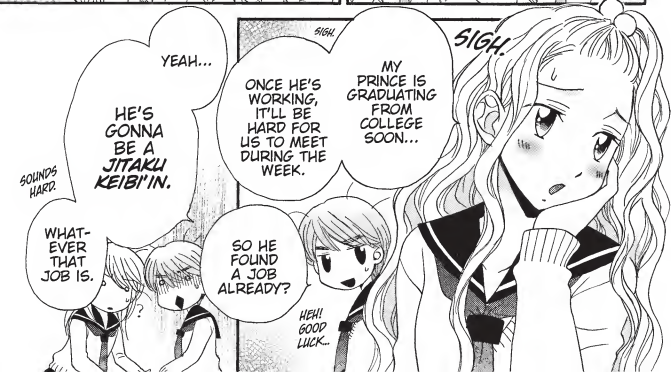
NOT PICK
A PLACE
JUST
BECAUSE
YOUR
BOYFRIEND'S
GOING
THERE!

YOU
SHOULD
FIND THE
RIGHT
COLLEGE
FOR YOUR
CAREER!

BUT IT'S
NOT LIKE
THEY CAN'T
DATE JUST
BECAUSE
THEY'RE AT
DIFFERENT
SCHOOLS!

YOU NEED
TO THINK
ABOUT THE
FUTURE!

IRK



YEAH...

HE'S
GONNA
BE A
**JITAKU
KEIBI'IN.**

SOUNDS
HARD.

WHAT-
EVER
THAT
JOB IS.

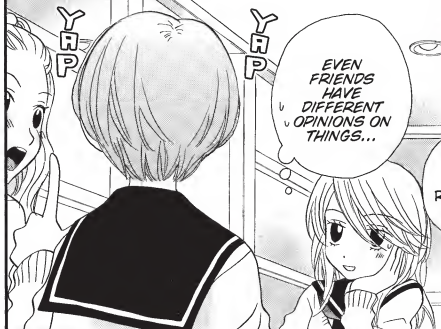
SO HE
FOUND
A JOB
ALREADY?

HEH!
GOOD
LUCK...

ONCE HE'S
WORKING,
IT'LL BE
HARD FOR
US TO MEET
DURING THE
WEEK.

MY
PRINCE IS
GRADUATING
FROM
COLLEGE
SOON...

SIGH.



GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE
DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO
AGREE ABOUT EVERYTHING.

BUT...

BUT YOU
WANT THE
PERSON
YOU LOVE...

TO BE
YOUR
BIGGEST
SUPPORTER.

"A Jitaku keibi'in is a "home security guard."
It's not actually a type of security guard, though—it's a
2ch.net meme for a "jobless person living at home."

TAGU-
CHAN



NAME: TAGUCHI URARA

BIRTHDATE: APRIL 25

ZODIAC: TAURUS

BLOOD TYPE: O

HEIGHT: 155CM

WEIGHT: 49KG

HOBBY: TENNIS!

MOST WANTED ITEM:
A BOYFRIEND...

GIRL FRIENDS — ガールフレンズ —



OUR
SCHOOL'S
STRONG
POINT...

IS OUR
DIRECT
CONNECTION
TO
BUSINESSES.

OUR
CLASSES
ARE TAUGHT
BY PRO-
FESSIONALS
WITH MANY
YEARS OF
EXPERIENCE.

AND
WE HAVE
MANY INTERN
POSITIONS AND
OPPORTUNITIES
TO BREAK
INTO THE
INDUSTRY.



CHATTER

AKKO,
I DIDN'T
KNOW YOU
WERE INTER-
ESTED IN
TECHNICAL
SCHOOLS.

LET ME
GUESS:
BEAUTY
SCHOOL?

Technical
School
Orientation

HEY!

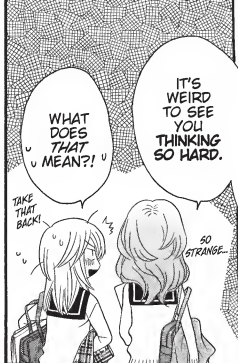
OH, I'M
STILL TRYING
TO GET INTO A
PHARMACEUTICAL
COLLEGE, BUT
I WANTED TO
HEAR ABOUT
THE MEDICAL
SCHOOLS HERE
TODAY TOO.

SUGI-
SAN!

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING HERE?
I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
AIMING FOR
A 4-YEAR
COLLEGE?

CHATTER

CHATTER



TAKE THAT BACK!

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?!

IT'S WEIRD TO SEE YOU THINKING SO HARD.

SO STRANGE...

MUMBLE
MUMBLE



YEAH...

I WANTED TO BE A MAKEUP ARTIST OR HAIR STYLIST.

BUT AFTER THIS SESSION, I'M LEANING TOWARDS MAKEUP...



I GUESS I JUST ASSUMED...

YOU WERE GOING TO THE 2-YEAR COLLEGE WITH MARI-CHIN...



Flip

I THINK...

SHE LEFT ALREADY...

LIHM...



SPEAKING OF MARI, WHERE IS SHE?



I HAVEN'T
BROUGHT
UP
COLLEGE
AGAIN
WITH
MARI...

BUT
THINGS
ARE
STILL
WEIRD
BETWEEN
US.

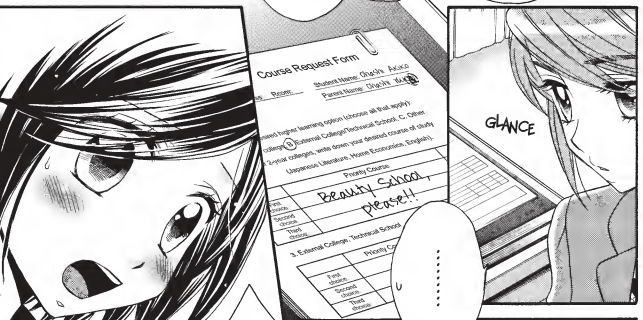
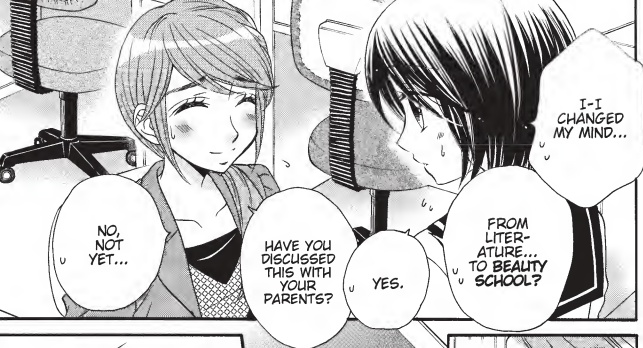
SO
THAT'S
HOW WE
STARTED
OFF
FEBRUARY.



[CHAPTER 33]









SENSEI, IS THAT YOUR HUSBAND?

D-DID YOU SEE HIM ...?

HE LOOKS... NICE...

EH?

GEE, THANKS.

LET'S TALK OUT-SIDE.

WAAAA!

BAM

W-WE GOT MARRIED JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO...

WE WANTED TO HAVE THE CEREMONY BEFORE I STARTED TO SHOW.

BRR, IT'S COLD OUT!

ARE YOU HIDING HIM FROM THE OTHER TEACHERS?

NO, IT'S JUST... THEY'RE GIVING ME A HARD ENOUGH TIME FOR HAVING A SHOTGUN WEDDING.

HEH...

THAT'S VERY KIND OF HER.

THAT'S WHAT MY MOTHER SAID!

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, NARU-CHAN!





YOU
KNOW...

I HADN'T
DATED
ANYONE
IN A LONG
TIME WHEN
I MET HIM.

TEN
YEARS...?

THAT'S... *EW?*

YEP.
SAD BUT
TRUE.

I
HADN'T
BEEN ON
A DATE
SINCE
HIGH
SCHOOL.

TEN YEARS,
IN FACT.



AH
HA
HA!

OR SO I
THOUGHT...

BUT NOW
LOOK
AT ME...

BUT
FORGET
ALL
THAT!

I'D GIVEN
MY LIFE TO
TEACHING!!

I HAD
A BAD
EXPERIENCE
WITH
MY HIGH
SCHOOL
BOY-
FRIEND...

AND MY
FRIENDS
ALL TOOK
HIS SIDE...

AFTER *THIS*
HAPPENED,
I
TOOK A REALLY
HARD LOOK
AT
MY LIFE...

dani



I DIDN'T
PUT IN
ENOUGH
EFFORT
TO MAKE
THINGS
WORK.

SIGH...

I REAL-
IZED...

EFFORT?



YES.
STAYING
TOGETHER
TAKES
WORK.

I TOOK
IT FOR
GRANTED
THAT MY
FRIENDS
WOULD
ALWAYS
BE MY
FRIENDS.

AND
WITH MY
BOYFRIEND...

I FIGURED
THE FACT THAT
WE LIKED EACH
OTHER WAS
ENOUGH TO
SUSTAIN US.

.....

WELL...

IN THE
END WE
MANAGE
TO WORK
THINGS
OUT.

WE'RE
BOTH WILLING
TO PUT IN
THE EFFORT.
THAT'S WHY
WE'RE STILL
TOGETHER.

AND WE
NEVER
AGREE
ON ANY-
THING...

SO
WHILE
MY HUS-
BAND...
MIGHT
LOOK LIKE
A TOAD
AND HAVE
A WEIRD
JOB AND
STRANGE
HOBBIES...

ARRGH!!

IS HE
REALLY
THAT
BAD?

SIGH.

THAT'S
WHY I
REFUSE
TO GIVE
UP THIS
TIME.

WHEN
I WAS
YOUNGER...

I WON'T
GIVE UP ON
MY CHILD, ON
TEACHING,
OR ON MY
HUSBAND.

I GAVE
UP TOO
EASILY.

I DIDN'T
HAVE THAT
KIND OF
RESOLVE.

BECAUSE
I KNOW I
CAN DO
BETTER IF
I JUST
TRY.

EVERY-
ONE THINKS
HE'S A SUPER
WEALTHY GUY
OR YOU WERE
STUCK IN A
TORRID LOVE
TRIANGLE...

IT...
WE'RE
ALL
VERY
HAPPY
FOR
YOU,
SENSEI!

IT'S
OKAY!
WE'LL
BE
FINE!

ERR...

AND
PARENTS
AND
FACULTY
TOO...

BUT...
BUT...
I'M
CAUSING
TROUBLE
FOR ALL
THE STU-
DENTS IN
MY CLASS,
AREN'T I?

YOU'LL
KEEP HIS
LOOKS A
SECRET,
RIGHT?

EH?

EVEN IF
YOU TAKE
DIFFERENT
CAREER
PATHS...

KUMAKURA-
SAN...

DON'T
GIVE
UP.



YOU LOVE
THIS
PERSON,
DON'T
YOU?

THE
SAME
GOES
FOR
LOVE.

YOU CAN
KEEP YOUR
FRIENDSHIPS
ALIVE.

AS LONG
AS YOU
MAKE THE
EFFORT
TO REACH
OUT...



I'M
SURE
THEY'RE
WORTH
THE
EFFORT.

WHOEVER
THEY ARE...

THAT'S
WHY I
WANTED
TO GO
TO THE
SAME
COLLEGE
AS HER.

I JUST
WANTED
TO STAY
CLOSE...

TO
AKKO...



I
ACTU-
ALLY
REALLY
DO...

GA-CHAK

SUPPORT
AKKO'S
DREAM.

BUT IT'S
PROBABLY
A BAD
IDEA...

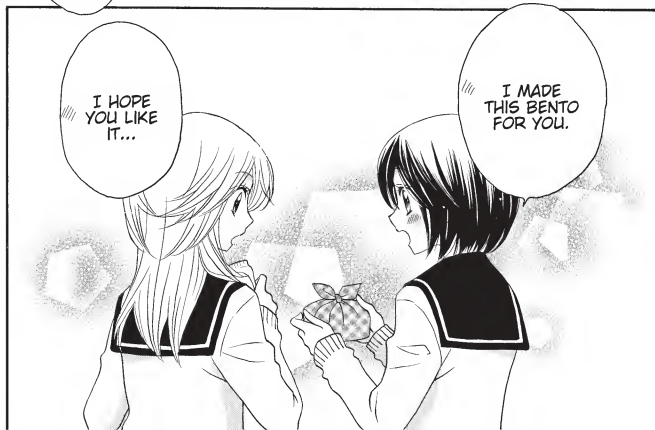
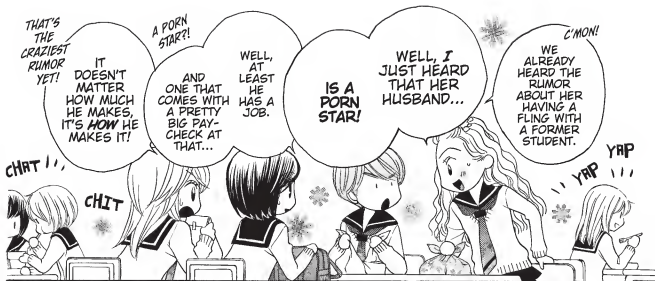
TO
CHOOSE
A CAREER
JUST
BECAUSE
OF THAT.

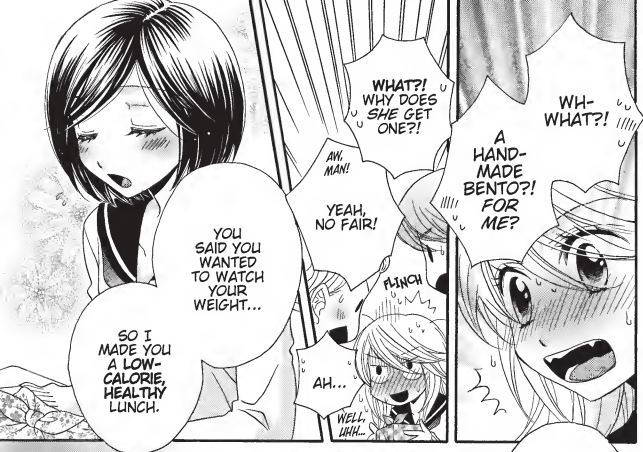
I JUST WANT...
TO BE WITH THE
PERSON I LOVE.

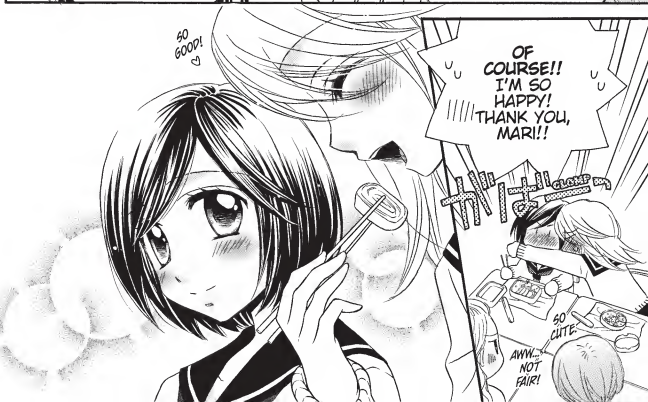


I HAVE
NEW INFO
ON NARU-
CHAN!!

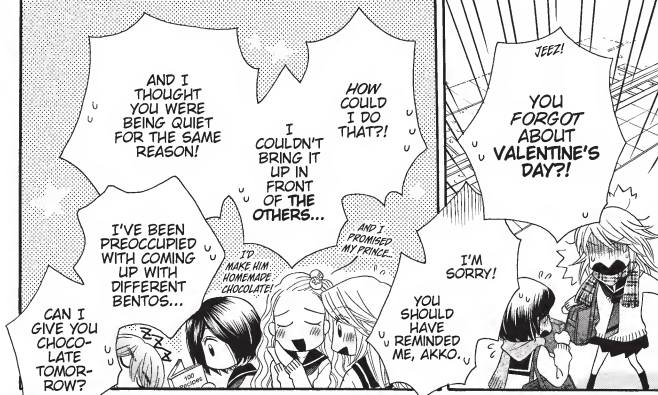
HEY,
GUYS!











AND I
THOUGHT
YOU WERE
BEING QUIET
FOR THE SAME
REASON!

HOW
COULD
I DO
THAT?!

I
COULDN'T
BRING IT
UP IN
FRONT
OF THE
OTHERS...

JEEZ!

YOU
FORGOT
ABOUT
VALENTINE'S
DAY?!

I'VE BEEN
PREOCCUPIED
WITH COMING
UP WITH
DIFFERENT
BENTOS...

I'D
MAKE HIM
HOMEMADE
CHOCOLATE!

AND I
PROMISED
MY PRINCE.

I'M
SORRY!

YOU
SHOULD
HAVE
REMINDED
ME, AKKO.

CAN I
GIVE YOU
CHOCO-
LATE
TOMOR-
ROW?



I'M
SORRY
...

I UN-
DER-
STAND
...

STOMP
STOMP

NO!



OKAY...?

IF YOU
STAY OVER
AT MY PLACE
SATURDAY.

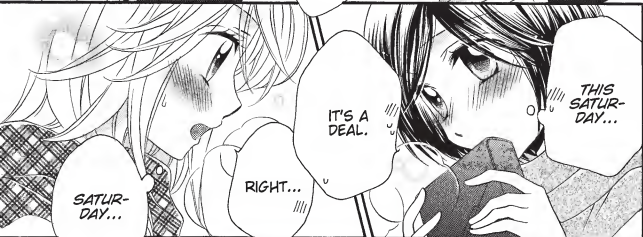
BUT...
YOU CAN
MAKE IT
UP TO
ME...



OH...



OKAY.



SATUR-DAY...

RIGHT...

IT'S A DEAL.

THIS SATUR-DAY...



WOBBLE

SATUR-DAY...

I...

I DID IT AGAIN!

POP
Barbie
X...!



OKAY, OKAY...

AND THIS!

♪

WEAR THIS!

YAY!
TIME FOR
ANOTHER
FASHION
SHOW!
♪

UP FIRST!
♡

FIRST,
I'LL WEAR
MY NEW
DRESS.
♡

AREN'T THEY
TOO SHORT?

MARI,
YOU LOOK
SO CUTE IN
SHORTS!
♡

I
LOVE
IT!
♡♡

SO MANY
CLOTHES...

MARI,
WOULD
YOU TRY ON
THIS ONE?

EH?
BUT
IT'S...

NEXT
UP...

HA HA!
YEAH!

DO I
LOOK
LIKE
TAMA-
MIN?

//// OKAY...



YEP! I NEVER
HAD A
CHANCE
TO WEAR
IT.

AND
YOU'RE
LETTING
ME WEAR
IT FIRST?



DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT!

BESIDES,
IT REALLY
SUITS
YOU...

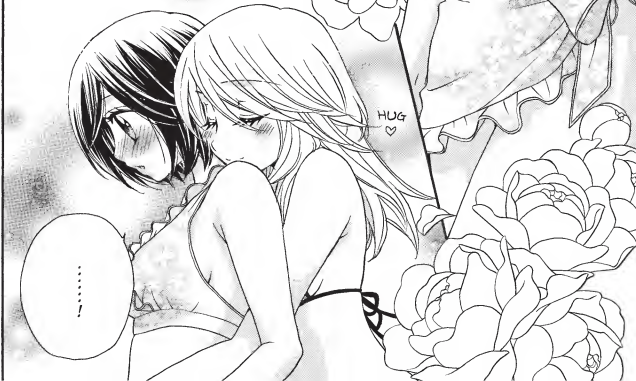


UMM,
IS THIS
SWIM-
SUIT...

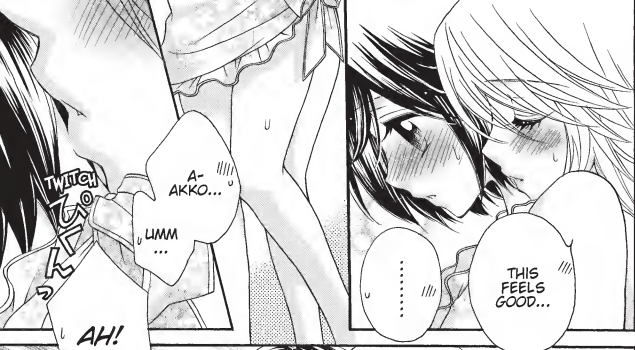
BRAND
NEW?

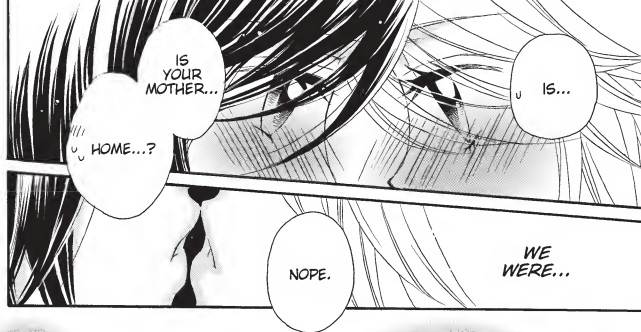
JUST
AS I
THOUGHT
IT
WOULD.

SIGH



HUG





IS
YOUR
MOTHER...

IS...

HOME...?

NOPE.

WE
WERE...



WE WERE
SO HAPPY
TO FINALLY...

FEEL
EACH
OTHER...

TAMA-
MIN



NAME: SEKINE TAMAMI

BIRTHDATE: MARCH 2

ZODIAC: AQUARIUS

BLOOD TYPE: B

HEIGHT: 150CM

WEIGHT: 45KG

HOBBY: COSPLAY

MOST WANTED ITEM:
A PLUGSUIT!!

GIRL FRIENDS — ガールフレンズ —



I FELT
HER HEART
POUNDING
AS WE
PRESSED
TOGETHER.

HER
BREATH
TICKLED
MY EAR...

I FELT
WARM
ALL
OVER...

FROM THE
HEAT OF OUR
BODIES AND
THE FEELINGS
INSIDE ME.

[CHAPTER 34]

UNN...

HUFF

GASP

HUFF

GASP

PANT

MM...

MN...

AH...

HUFF

HAA...

SLIDE

SLIDE
SLIDE

DROR





YOU
WOULD
KNOW
MORE
THAN ME,
MARI...

BUT I
THOUGHT
YOU
HAD SEX
ALREADY!

NO,
NOTHING
ACTUALLY
HAPPENED.

JOLT

KINDA
OVER-
WHELM-
ING...

SO
THIS
IS...

HUH?

I'M
ACTUALLY
PRETTY
INEXPER-
IENCED...

WELL...

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
TO DO NEXT...

AAHHH!
FIZZLE
FIZZLE

IT'S...

IT'S MY
FIRST
TIME,
TOO...

EH...?

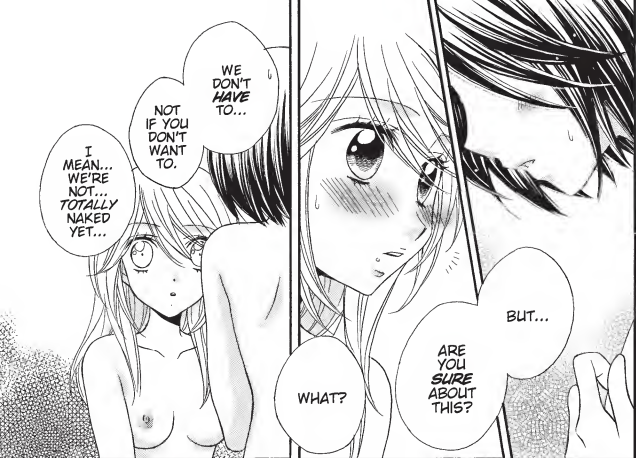


AND...

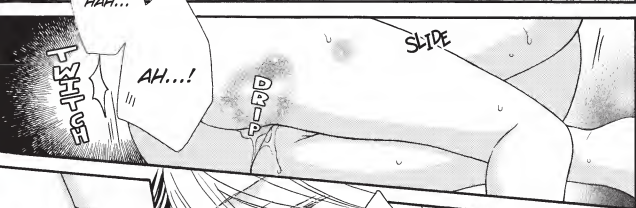
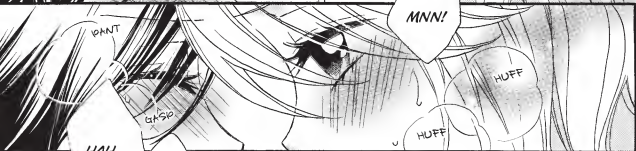
I
WANT
TO DO
IT WITH
YOU.

BUT... I
KNOW...

WHAT I
WANT.









OH...
UH...
YEAH...

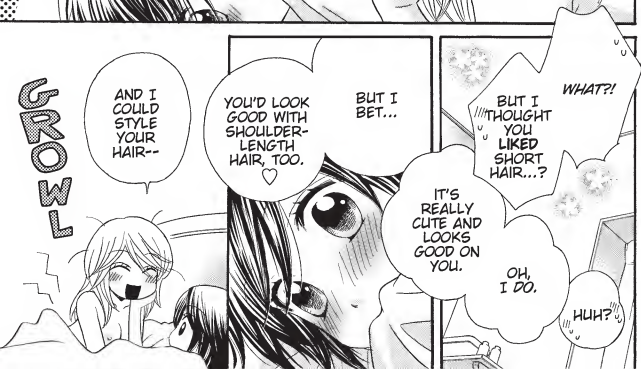
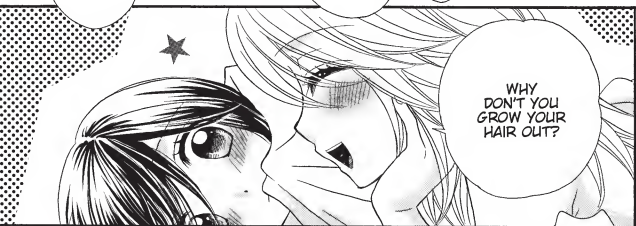
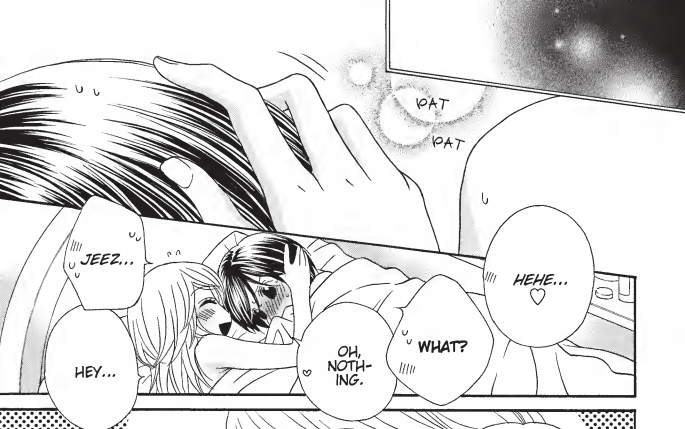
///
HUH,
MARI?

WHAT'S
U WRONG?

.....
I'M
JUST
HAPPY
...

THAT'S
ALL...

///
YOU'RE
SO
SILLY...





WE'LL
HAVE THE
SNACK
BREAD I
BOUGHT!

OH, I
KNOW!

FLINCH

sit
up



YEAH,
I'M
STARVING!

WE NEVER
ATE DINNER,
DID WE?

HEH
HEH.

SO
HUNGRY...

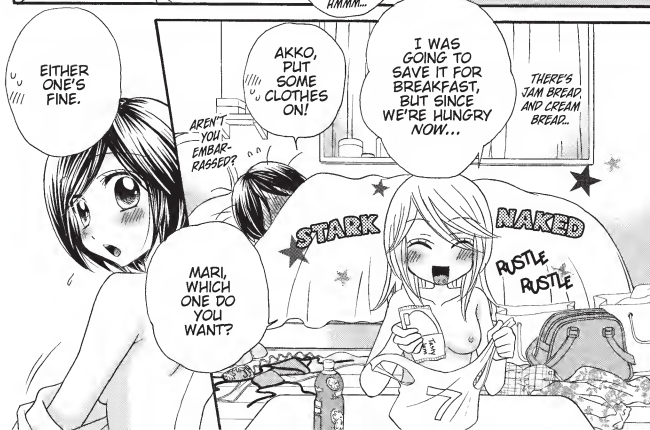


OH, IT'S
LATE
ALREADY.

WHAT
DO YOU
WANT
FOR
DINNER?

WELL, WE
COULD--

HMMM...



EITHER
ONE'S
FINE.

AKKO,
PUT
SOME
CLOTHES
ON!

AREN'T
YOU
EMBAR-
RASSED?

I WAS
GOING TO
SAVE IT FOR
BREAKFAST,
BUT SINCE
WE'RE HUNGRY
NOW...

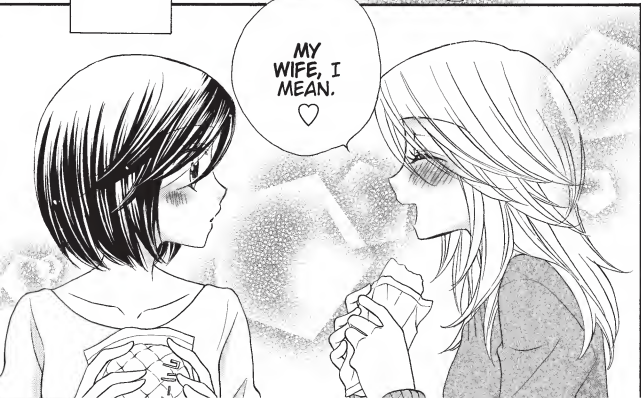
THERE'S
JAM BREAD,
AND CREAM
BREAD...

MARI,
WHICH
ONE DO
YOU
WANT?

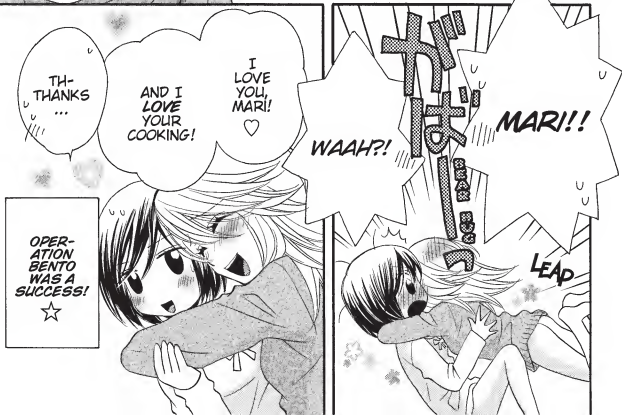
STARK

NAKED

RUSTLE
RUSTLE





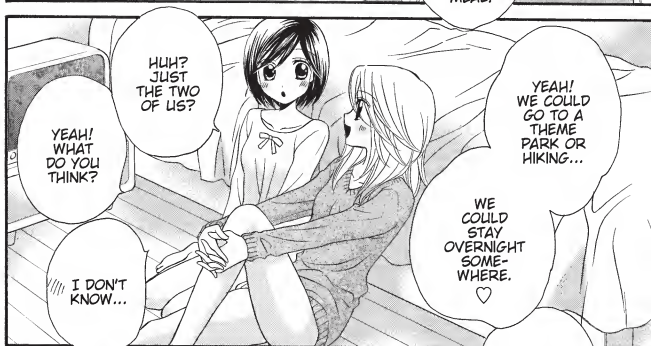




LIKE ON
SPRING
BREAK?

MARI, WE
SHOULD
GO ON A
TRIP
TOGETHER...

SO I
CAN EAT
YOUR
COOKING
EVERY
MEAL!



YEAH!
WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?

HUH?
JUST
THE TWO
OF US?

YEAH!
WE COULD
GO TO A
THEME
PARK OR
HIKING...

WE
COULD
STAY
OVERNIGHT
SOME-
WHERE.

I DON'T
KNOW...



EVEN
THOUGH
IT WAS
OUR
FIRST
TRIP
TOGETHER.

OUR
SCHOOL
TRIP WAS
KIND OF
A DRAG...

IT'S
JUST...

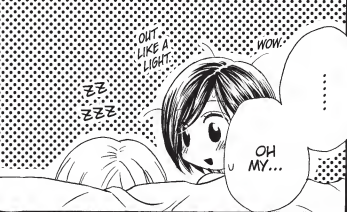
WELL...

MAYBE
IN THE
SUMMER
WE COULD
GO TO THE
BEACH...

AT A
BEACH
OR IN A
POOL.

AND I
WANT TO
WEAR
THAT
SWIM-
SUIT...

THAT'S
TRUE.



I KISSED
AKKO FOR
THE FIRST
TIME IN THIS
ROOM.



REGARDLESS
OF WHAT MAY
LIE AHEAD...
I WILL NEVER
GIVE UP ON YOU.

I
WANT
TO BE
WITH
YOU...

YES...

LET'S BE
TOGETHER.

AND...

I
DIDN'T
EXPECT
THINGS
TO TURN
OUT LIKE
THIS.

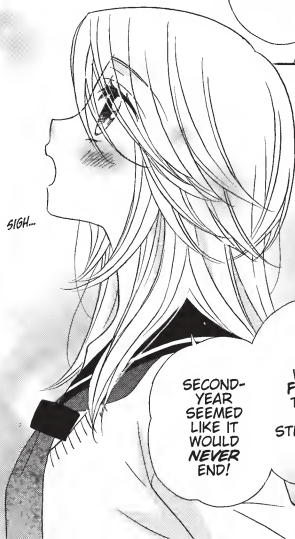
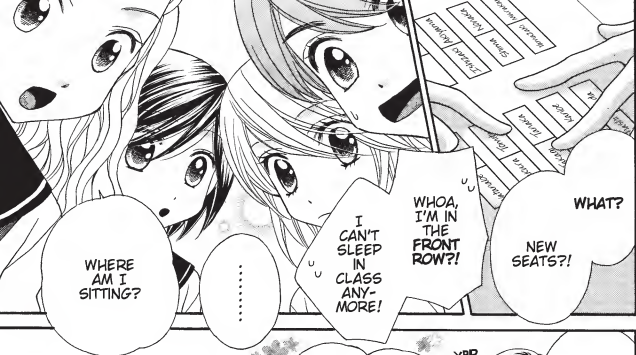
BACK
THEN...

I
DIDN'T
KNOW
WHAT
I WAS
DOING.

ZZZ

Mmm



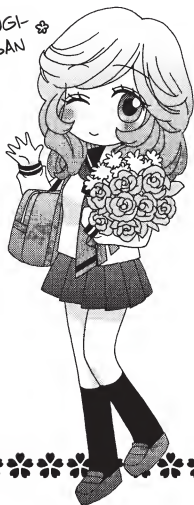


SECOND-YEAR SEEMED LIKE IT WOULD NEVER END!

SO WE'RE FINALLY THIRD-YEAR STUDENTS!

ONE
YEAR STILL
FEELS LIKE
A LONG
TIME.

SUGI-
SAN ✿



NAME: SUGIYAMA SATOKO

BIRTHDATE: JUNE 11

ZODIAC: GEMINI

BLOOD TYPE: AB

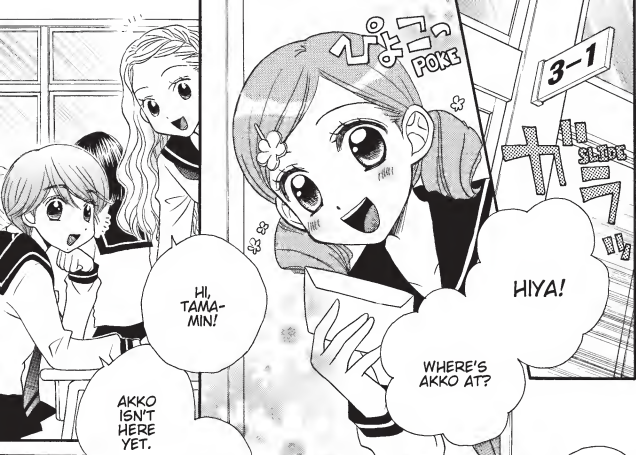
HEIGHT: 167CM

WEIGHT: 50KG

HOBBY: SELF-IMPROVEMENT

MOST WANTED ITEM: TRUE
LOVE... OR ABSOLUTE POWER.

GIRL FRIENDS — ガールフレンズ —



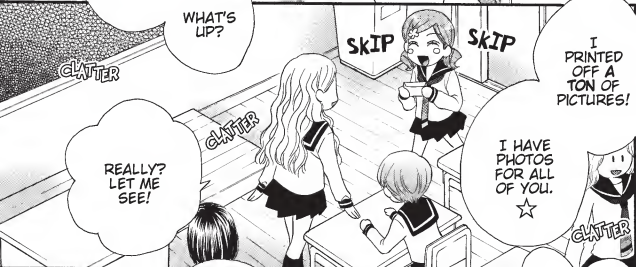
HI,
TAMA-
MIN!

HIYA!

WHERE'S
AKKO AT?

AKKO
ISN'T
HERE
YET.

WHAT'S
UP?



I
PRINTED
OFF A
TON OF
PICTURES!

I HAVE
PHOTOS
FOR ALL
OF YOU.
☆

REALLY?
LET ME
SEE!



OH
MY
GOD!

WHAT
THE
HELL?!

AKKO'S
SWIMSUIT
IS JUST
WRONG!

SERIOUS
BIKINI FAIL...

OH,
THAT WAS
DURING
SUMMER
VACATION...

AH
HA
HA
HA!

GOOD
MORNING,
EVERY-
ONE!

HEY,
AKKO!
GOOD
MORNING!



MORNING!

THIS
ONE'S FROM
THE SPRING
BREAK
BARBECUE.



OH, AND
LAST YEAR'S
SPORTS FEST!
KUNOCCHI, YOU
PLAYED HOOKY
THE YEAR
BEFORE...

I
BROUGHT
YOU SOME
PICTURES.



REALLY?
HAND 'EM
OVER!

I
SPRAINED
MY
ANKLE!

AND
THAT'S THE
CULTURAL
FESTIVAL!

SUGI-SAN
AND AKKO'S
MAKEUP
SEMINAR
WAS A
BIG HIT.

WOW! I
REMEMBER
THAT!

HM?
PICTURES?

HAHA!
HAHA!
AHAHA!
LOOK AT
THIS!!

WHAT'S
THIS FROM?

EWA
HA
HA
HA
YEAH...

THAT OUTFIT
WAS CRAZY!

I STILL
CAN'T
BELIEVE
YOU WORE
THAT ON
STAGE...

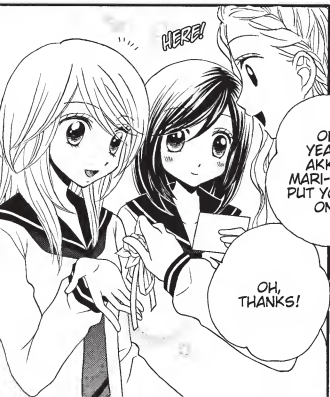
OH,
THAT'S
WHEN
TAMA-MIN
SANG IN
THE TALENT
SHOW!



REALLY? ///

WHEN
YOU
LOOK
AT THE
PIC-
TURES...

YOU CAN
REALLY
SEE HOW
MUCH
MARI'S
HAIR HAS
GROWN.



HERE!

OH
YEAH!
AKKO,
MARI-CHIN,
PUT YOURS
ON!

OH,
THANKS!



[FINAL CHAPTER]

Graduation Ceremony

WELCOME,
EVERYONE,
TO THE
O-HANA
GIRLS
HIGH
SCHOOL...

GRADU-
ATION
CERE-
MONY.

YAY!

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

PLEASE
GIVE
A BIG
ROUND
OF AP-
PLAUSE...

TO OUR
NEW
GRADU-
ATES!

MY
HEART
WAS
POUNDING
ALL
DAY.

ONE
YEAR
FELT
A LOT
LONGER
THAN
EX-
PECTED.

BUT
WE
ENJOYED
EACH
AND
EVERY
DAY.

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

EH?

HEY, IS
THAT...

I
THOUGHT
SHE WAS
STILL ON
MATERNITY
LEAVE...

NARU-
CHAN
SENSEI?

CLAP

CLAP

MUTTER
お

IT'S
NARU-
CHAN!

OVER
THERE...

WHOA,
IT IS!

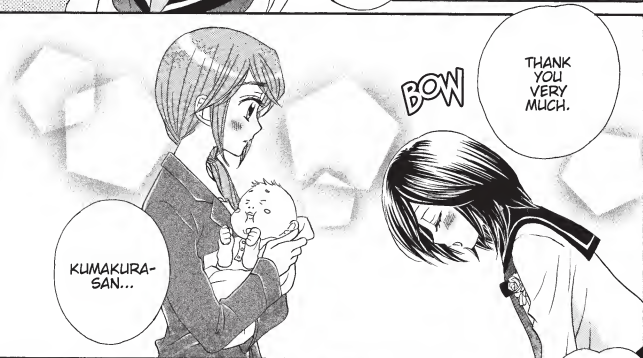
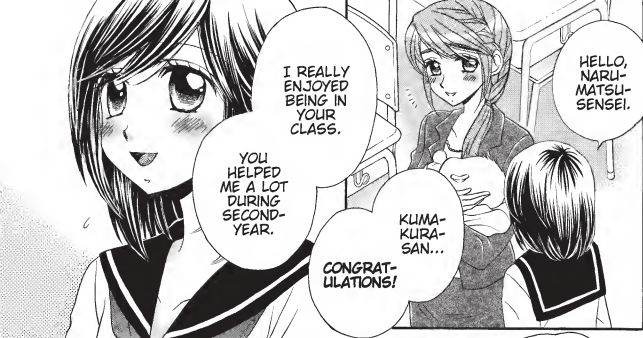
WHAT?
WHERE?

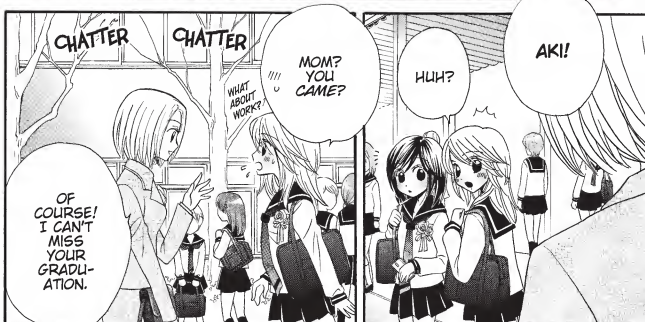
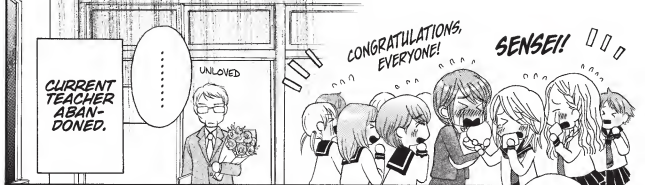
MUTTER
お

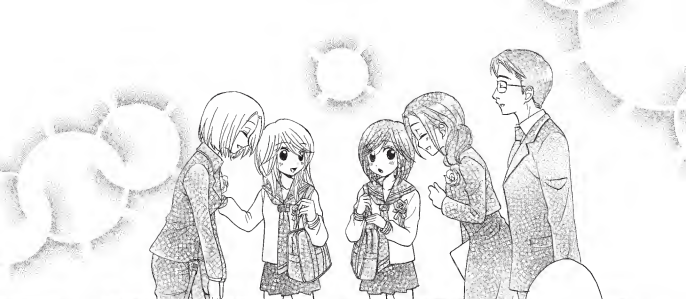
FOR
REAL?

AND
YET...

IT
STILL
FELT
LIKE
NOT
ENOUGH
TIME...









WELL,
THAT'S TRUE,
BUT...

YOU
WERE JUST
COMPLAINING
THAT YOU
NEVER HAVE
TIME TO DO
ANYTHING...

SUGI-
SAN!

TAMA-
MIN!

I'M
ALWAYS
UP FOR A
PARTY.
♡

WHO
GAVE YOU
FLOWERS?



I NEED
ONE
DAY TO
MYSELF.

YOU
HOOKED
ANOTHER
ONE?

SIX?!

SHE'S
SIX-
TIMING
NOW.

BUT I
WANT
TO GO
TO THE
PARTY
TOO...

ONE OF HER
BOYFRIENDS
GAVE THEM
TO HER.



HM?
LET ME
SEE...

WHICH
ONE?

MIXED
INTO
OUR
BATCH.

THERE
WAS A
WEIRD
PICTURE...

OH
YEAH...





WOW,
THAT'S
AWE-
SOME!!

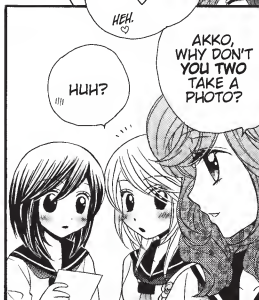
WHY DID
YOU TAKE
OFF YOUR
SHIRT,
SUGI-SAN?

BECAUSE
IT WAS
HOT IN
THERE!

UGH, I
WISHED
I HADN'T
WINKED...

YOU
LOOK
FINE!

I WANT
TO TAKE
ANOTHER
ONE!



HUH?

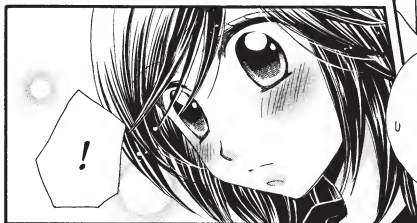
AKKO,
WHY DON'T
YOU TWO
TAKE A
PHOTO?



YEAH,
ALL
RIGHT...







SQUEEZE







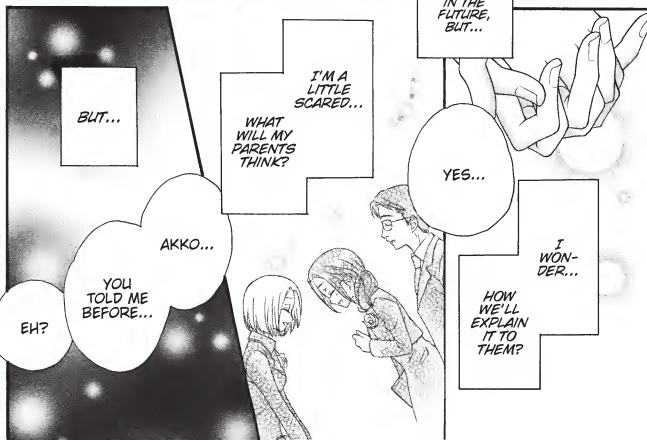
WHEN
THAT
TIME
COMES...

WE'LL
DO IT
TOGETHER,
OKAY?

IT'LL
BE ALL
RIGHT.
THEY'LL
ACCEPT
US.

I'M
GOING
TO A
2-YEAR
COLLEGE
AND AKKO
TO A
3-YEAR
TECH
SCHOOL.

WE
DON'T
KNOW
WHAT WILL
HAPPEN
IN THE
FUTURE,
BUT...



BUT...

I'M A
LITTLE
SCARED...

WHAT
WILL MY
PARENTS
THINK?

YES...

I
WON-
DER...

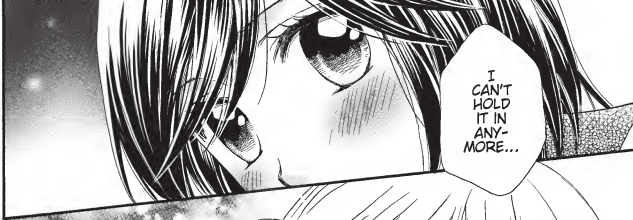
HOW
WE'LL
EXPLAIN
IT TO
THEM?

AKKO...

YOU
TOLD ME
BEFORE...

EH?





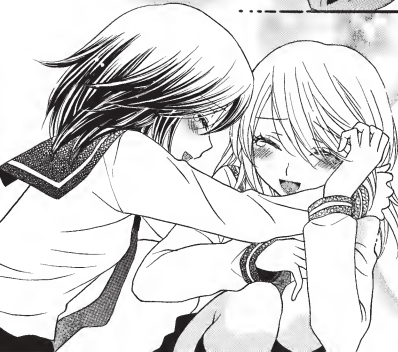
I CAN'T
HOLD
IT IN
ANY-
MORE...



MARI,
I...

I'VE
NEVER
BEEN SO
HAPPY...!

I FELL
IN LOVE
WITH
AKKO...



AND
EXPERIENCED
A LOT OF
PAIN AND
HEARTACHE...

AND I'M
SURE THERE
ARE STILL
CHALLENGES
TO COME...

BUT...

WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES WITH HOPES AND DREAMS.

OH
GOD,
I'VE
GAINED
WEIGHT!

IS MY
FACE
REALLY
THAT
ROUND?

MAYBE
IT'S THE
CAMERA'S
FAULT.

OH
WOW,
WHEN
DID WE
TAKE
THIS?

I LIKE
HOW I DID
MY HAIR
THAT
DAY.

EVERYONE HERE IS SPECIAL.

WE SHARE THE SAME FEELINGS.

MAYBE
I SHOULD
GROW MY
HAIR OUT?

BUT I
LIKE IT
SHORT...

HEY,
WHICH
ONE
SHOULD
I WEAR?

THEY'RE
ALL SO
CUTE!

WE ALL HAVE PEOPLE WE LOVE.

*I CAN STAY
FRIENDS WITH ALL
THE OTHER PEOPLE
PRECIOUS TO ME.*

*BUT IF WE EVER
LOSE TOUCH...*

I HOPE EVERYONE FINDS HAPPINESS.



SO, IF THERE IS A GOD...



THANK YOU FOR LEADING ME TO AKKO.

*THE MOST
PRECIOUS
PERSON IN
MY LIFE.*

AND I HOPE THAT...

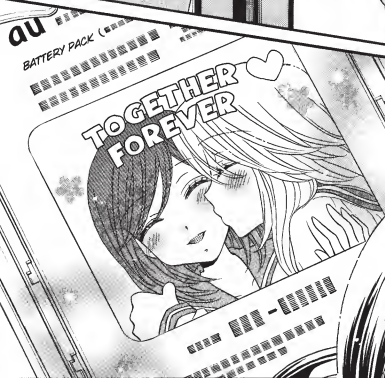
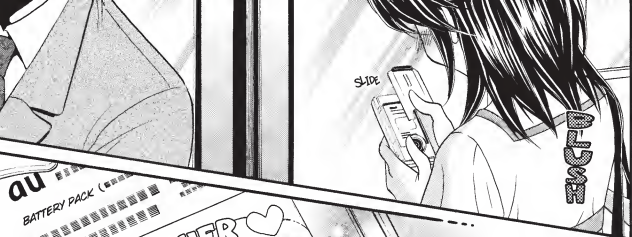


AKKO
GOOD MORNING!
WE'RE LEARNING ABOUT
EYE SHADOW. ☆
IT'S FUN, BUT WE HAVE
SO MUCH HOMEWORK! ↓
BUT I CAN SEE YOU
ONCE I'M DONE, SO
I'LL WORK HARD! ♥

GR-CLACK

GR-CLACK

.....





YEP!

DID YOU
FINISH YOUR
DIET THEORY
REPORT?

GOOD
MORNING!

OH, GOOD
MORNING,
KUMAKURA-
SAN!

MINE
WAS...

THE SOURCE OF
MY HAPPINESS...

WHAT GETS ME
THROUGH THE DAY...

IS YOUR SMILE.

GIRL FRIENDS — ガールフレンズ —

EXTRA MANGA 7

MARI-CHIN,
WHAT'S
YOUR SIGN?

Compatibility

SO,
PISCES...

I THINK
AKKO'S
A LEO...

Flip

WANNA
READ
YOURS?

THIS
HOROSCOPE
BOOK IS
SCARILY
ACCURATE!

IT SAYS I
SHOULD FORGET
ABOUT LOVE AND
STUDY MORE...

I'M A
PISCES.
WHY?

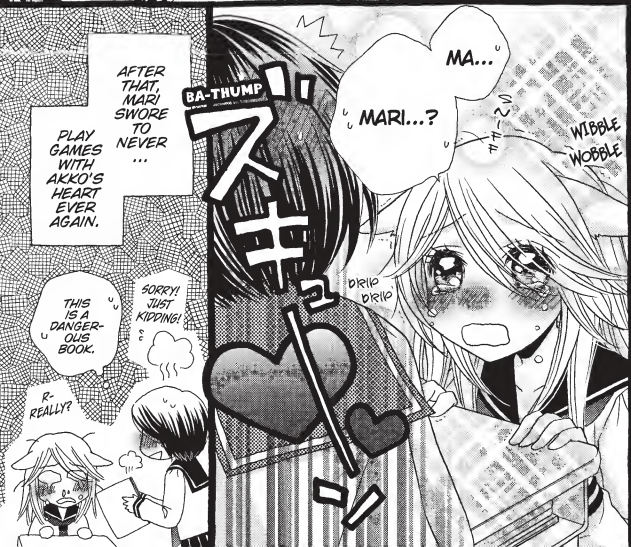
MARI, CAN
WE SWING
BY THE
BODY SHOP
AFTER
SCHOOL?

WHATCHA
READING?

...

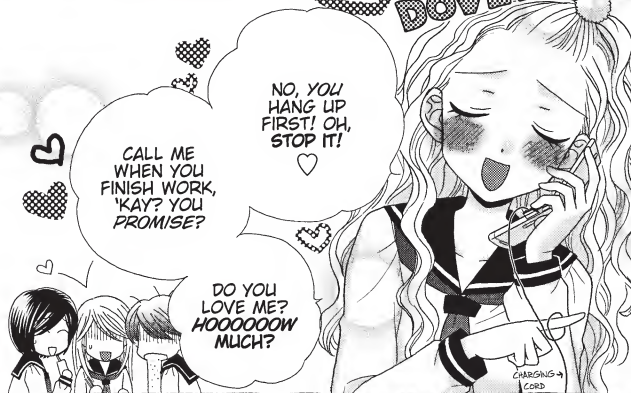
LEO BOYS CAN BE
SUPER POPULAR!

☆
TRY TO KEEP YOUR
GUY'S ATTENTION BY
BEING COLD TO HIM
SOMETIMES. HE'LL
WANT YOU MORE IF
YOU PLAY HARD
TO GET.
♡



EXTRA MANGA 8

LOVEY
DOVEY



CALL ME
WHEN YOU
FINISH WORK,
'KAY? YOU
PROMISE?

NO, YOU
HANG UP
FIRST! OH,
STOP IT!

DO YOU
LOVE ME?
HOOOOOOW
MUCH?

CHARGING →
CORD



WELL,
I'M A BIT
JEALOUS...

THEY'RE
SO OPEN
ABOUT
THEIR
FEELINGS.

I
COULD
NEVER
DO IT,
THOUGH...



YUCK!

YOU'D
THINK HER
BOYFRIEND
WOULD BE
SICK OF
ALL THAT
MUSHY
CRAP...

THEY'RE
BOTH LIKE
THAT. HECK,
THE BOY-
FRIEND'S
PROBABLY
WORSE...

I
KNOW!

BUT...
IF THAT'S
WHAT MARI
WANTS...

HEY
MARI-
CHIN!
AKKO!!

I'LL
DO
IT!

I DON'T
KNOW IF
I CAN
DO IT...

AKKO?
WHAT'S
WRONG?

AFTER
SCHOOL

MUMBLE
MUMBLE

MARI
WANTS
ME TO
BE ALL
LOVEY-
DOVEY?!

SHOCK

LOOK WHAT
SUGI-SAN
GAVE ME!

AHEM.

I'LL BE
THINKING
OF YOU
ALLLLL
NIGHT!

UM, I
"WUV" YOU
TOO, BUT
NOT LIKE
THAT...

UH...
'CAUSE
I WUV
YOU
SOOO
MUCH!

I DIDN'T KNOW
SHE WAS THERE!
I SWEAR!

MARI DIDN'T
SPEAK TO
AKKO FOR
A LITTLE
WHILE
AFTER THAT.

YEP!
THANK
YOU,
MARI!

AKKO'S
BATH

YAY! A
LARGE
BOWL!

AKKO,
IS THIS
ENOUGH
RICE?

MARI GOT
USED TO
HAVING
TINY AKKO
AROUND.

TOOTHPICKS →

IT'S
LIKE
WE'RE
NEWLY-
WEDS!

TEENY-
TINY

AN
ERASER →

↑ DOLLHOUSE
PLATES AND DISHES

CONTINUED FROM
THE EXTRA MANGA 5

EXTRA MANGA 9

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

BUT IF
I STAY
LIKE THIS
FOREVER...

SHE
THINKS
I RAN
AWAY
FROM
HOME...

AKKO,
YOUR
MOTHER
MUST BE
WORRIED...

WELL...

I STILL
CALL AND
EMAIL
HER...

UM...

AKKO...

IF I
NEVER
GO BACK
TO MY
NORMAL
SIZE...

SIGH...

AHH!!

HOW
CAN WE
HAVE
SEX?

AND
SO...

SUPER SERIOUS.

BUT I
WANNA
KISS
MARI,
TOO!

WHEN
SHE
THOUGHT
THAT...

EH...?

WHAT...

YOUR
LIPS
FEEL SO
SOFT!

SMOOCH

OKAY,
LET'S
KISS!

THEY
DECIDED
TO TRY
ANYWAY.

I
DON'T
KNOW,
AKKO...

SMOOCH

IT...
FEELS
REALLY
GOOD...

C'MON!

KISS
ME!

SMOOCH

BOOM

WH-WHAT
THE--?!

NOW
YOU'RE
SMALL?!

OH MY
GOSH!

WHY?!
WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO,
AKKO?

NOTHING
KEEPS
THEM
FROM
BEING
HAPPY.



A HAPPY ENDING.

NOOOOO!

WHAAT
?!

I THINK
WE WERE
ALREADY
IN THE
MIDDLE
OF SOME-
THING...

YOU'RE
SO CUTE!

HMM...

WELL...

AFTERWORD

IT SEEMS SO LONG AGO THAT I FIRST STARTED WORKING ON THIS STORY OF HIGH SCHOOL FRIENDSHIP. I APOLOGIZE FOR TURNING IT INTO A YURI MANGA.

HUH? YOU KNEW FROM THE START THAT IT WAS YURI? OH, I SEE. NEVER MIND THEN.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I LIVED TO SEE THIS DAY!!



NO, SERIOUSLY!

HELLO THERE, THIS IS MORINAGA.

THANK YOU FOR READING

GIRL FRIENDS VOLUME 5 !

MY ART STYLE CHANGED OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS, HOPEFULLY FOR THE BETTER.



SUGI-SAN WITH REALLY CURLY, FLUFFY HAIR.

ALSO, THEN I COULDN'T PLANNED THE STORY BETTER...

BACK THEN, I NEVER IMAGINED I'D DRAW 5 VOLUMES OF A YURI MANGA SERIES. I WISH I COULD GO BACK IN TIME TO TELL MYSELF THAT.



TAGUCHI WAS ACTUALLY VERY POPULAR AMONG HER YOUNGER TEAMMATES...



LIKE BIRTH-DAYS...

OR MORE BEACH AND POOL SCENES, SKI CLASSES, CLUB ACTIVITIES, OTHER YEAR STUDENTS, DIFFERENT SCHOOL UNIFORMS, HORROR, ETC.

TAMA-MIN ON STAGE...



SPORTS FESTIVALS...

I CRAMMED IN A LOT OF THINGS I WANTED TO DRAW, BUT THERE WAS STILL A LOT I DIDN'T GET TO DO...



LIKE THE
SENAI
I HAD A
CRUSH
ON...

AND HOW
I WAS
SUCH A
SUPER
OTAKU!



BUT I DID
RECALL
A LOT OF
HAPPY HIGH
SCHOOL
MEMORIES
AS I DREW
THIS SERIES.

AND THE LITTLE
FIGHTS I HAD
WITH MY FRIENDS...

AND SOME THAT MADE
ME WANT TO DIE FROM
EMBARRASSMENT.



NO
COM-
MENT
...!!

I RECEIVED A
LOT OF MAIL
SAYING THAT I
"MUST HAVE HAD
A WONDERFUL
TIME IN HIGH
SCHOOL!"

WHEN I SEE THE ENDINGS OF MY
FAVORITE MANGA OR TV SHOWS I
ALWAYS FEEL SAD, AS IF I'M SAYING
GOODBYE TO A GOOD FRIEND...

BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HOW I'D FEEL
ABOUT ENDING MY OWN MANGA SERIES.



BY
THE WAY,
I HATE
ENDINGS.

I HATE
THIS
PHRASE:

WHAT?
!!

PICK UP OUR
NEXT ISSUE FOR
THE DRAMATIC
CONCLUSION!!!

WHEN I GROW
OLD AND RE-READ
GIRL FRIENDS, I'LL
PROBABLY GET
MY HIGH SCHOOL
MEMORIES AND
THE EVENTS IN
THE SERIES ALL
MIXED UP.

OH YES,
MARI-CHAN
HAD A GIRL-
FRIEND.
DIDN'T SHE...?



THANK YOU FROM THE
BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

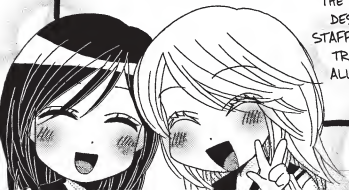
I AM TRULY HAPPY.

AND I HOPE EVERYONE FINDS
THE SAME HAPPINESS!

TO MY EDITORS N-NAKA-
SAMA AND N-NO-SAMA,
I'M SORRY FOR PUTTING
YOU BOTH THROUGH SO
MUCH PAIN. THANKS TO
A-TSUYO- TAN, M-MI-CHIN
AND EVERYONE ELSE WHO
HELPED ME OUT WITH
THE EPISODES. TO THE
DESIGNER, PRINTER
STAFF, FOREIGN EDITORS,
TRANSLATORS, AND
ALL THE READERS...

I REALIZE
NOW THAT...

IT'S EVEN
SADDER.



SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

GIRLFRIENDS

story and art by **MILK MORINAGA** **VOLUME 5**

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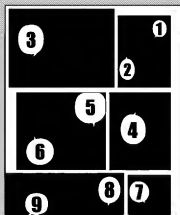
Ebook Edition: December 2017

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but it's the way manga is read.



The *New York Times* bestselling manga concludes in this emotional finale!

Super-cute and popular high school girl Ohashi Akko has transformed her new friend Mariko in more ways than one. Not only has she introduced Mariko to a new circle of friends and helped her overcome her shyness and sense of isolation, but both girls have awakened feelings they never knew they had.

In the course of their evolving relationship, Akko and Mariko have struggled against every type of hurdle one would expect from a burgeoning romance between two high school girls. One question remains: are they ready to face the world as a couple?

This collection contains the final two-and-a-half volumes of *Girl Friends*, written and illustrated by Japanese yuri icon Milk Morinaga.



OLDER TEEN (16+)

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